

Geo Paul Smith
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AN
1800

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE
RISE, PROGRESS AND SUPPRESSION,
OF THE
REBELLION
IN THE
COUNTY OF WEXFORD,
IN THE YEAR 1798:
TO WHICH ARE ANNEXED,
THE AUTHOR'S CAPTIVITY,
AND MERCIFUL DELIVERANCE.
BY GEORGE TAYLOR.

Illustrated with a View of the BRIDGE OF WEXFORD, and the
Massacre which took place thereon, June 20th, 1798.

~~~~~  
O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple  
have they defiled, and made Jerusalem an heap of stones.

The dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat unto the  
fowls of the air, and the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the land.

Their blood have they shed like water on every side of Jerusalem; and  
there was no man to bury them. Psalm 37. ver. 1, 2, 3.

~~~~~  
DUBLIN:
PRINTED BY JOHN JONES, 91, BRIDGE-STREET.

1800.

1801
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

THE PROGRESS AND EXTENSION

OF THE

REBELLION

IN THE

COUNTY OF WEXFORD

IN THE YEAR 1798

TO WHICH ARE ANNEXED

THE AUTHOR'S CAPTIVITY

AND MERCANTILE DALLIANCE

BY GEORGE DALLIANCE



Illustrated with a View of the County of Wexford, and the
Map of the County of Wexford, from 1798 to 1801.

TO BE HAD OF THE AUTHOR, AND OF THE BOOKSELLERS, IN
LONDON, AND OF THE BOOKSELLERS, IN DUBLIN, AND OF THE
BOOKSELLERS, IN WEXFORD, AND OF THE BOOKSELLERS, IN
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DUBLIN

PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD

1801

DEDICATION.

TO THE
RIGHT HONORABLE GEORGE OGLE,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,
FOR THE CITY OF DUBLIN,
ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONORABLE PRIVY COUNCIL,
AND COLONEL OF THAT TRULY PATRIOTIC
CORPS OF YEOMEN,
OGLE'S LOYAL BLUES.

SIR,

FULLY convinced of the fatherly care with which you have watched over and supported our happy Constitution in Church and State, with the most profound respect, I presume to dedicate to you the following Sheets.

The obligations your Country is under to you, Sir, are better felt than described. In the Field and in the Senate, you have repeatedly proved yourself her steady friend, which

should be recorded, that the children yet unborn may revere your name. May the same line of conduct guide all your steps! May your indefatigable labours be crowned with success; and may that glorious Being, who reigneth over all, in due time translate you from this world of woe, to those blissful regions, where the inhabitants enjoy everlasting delight!

So prays,

your most humble,

and most obedient Servant,

GEORGE TAYLOR.

Ballywalter,
August 1st, 1800. }

PREFACE.

PREFACE.

HAVING had various opportunities of knowing the process of the Rebellion in the County of Wexford; being also for some weeks a Prisoner among the Rebels, and several times during that period upon the verge of death; many of my friends requested, I would draw up a History of said Rebellion, as far as I knew. This I declined for various reasons, but chiefly on account of my want of Talents for such an undertaking. The repeated solicitations of my friends, and the assurance that a spurious Narrative of the Rebellion was to come out in my name, at length prevailed upon me, to make my appearance in this public manner.

In

In this undertaking, I have been much assisted by some intelligent Persons, who had much information on the subject. What I have here related, may be depended upon as matters of Fact—For I would, not for any consideration, knowingly advance an untruth, to extenuate the guilt, or aggravate the crime of friend or foe.

Notwithstanding what I have said, I doubt not but several things related in the following Narrative, may, to some Readers, appear not only *extraordinary*, but *incredible*; yet, they are not more extraordinary than true; which I can with safety aver; as many of them came within my own knowledge, the rest I received from gentlemen of the strictest veracity, who will prove them if required—and I will add, that I have been so far from inventing Stories, that had I related all the circumstances, to which

which I myself was witness, they would swell the History much beyond its intended size.

I now with all humility send it forth into the world, hoping it may tend to shew, how much we are indebted to God, and how thankful we ought to be for that Constitution which affords us such privileges civil and religious.

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AN
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

Rise, Progress, & Suppression

OF THE REBELLION

In the County Wexford.

IN THE YEAR 1798.

FOR some years previous to the late Rebellion of 1798, there were partial disturbances in the county of Wexford, by certain bodies of men, who styled themselves, White-Boys, at other times Steel-Boys, Oak-Boys, Right-Boys and Defenders; until at length they were all drawn into that great vortex *United Irish-men*. This being a general term, and their pretended view, only Reform in Parliament and Catholic Emancipation, attracted persons of almost all persuasions, but chiefly those of the Roman-catholic religion.

B.

The

The White-Boys, who were the first disturbers of this once peaceable county, made their appearance in the year 1774. These being of the church of Rome, occasioned for some time, a very ferious alarm; but by the activity and perseverance of the magistrates and many loyal inhabitants, they were soon quelled, and two of the ringleaders, viz. Owen Carrol, and John Daggan, being found guilty of some heinous offences, were executed near Newtown-barry, on the 28th of September, 1775. Their manner was to assemble in the night, dress themselves in white shirts, which were thrown over their clothes, seize all the horses they could, then set off full speed, in great bodies to the destined place, perhaps the distance of several miles; dig up the pastures, burn houses, barns and stacks of corn, drag out the proctors, cut off their noses and ears, horse-whip them till just expiring, and sometimes bury them alive; and all this to prevent their gathering the *tithes*.

Amongst the spirited magistrates, whose exertions to preserve tranquillity and good order at this alarming crisis, none stood more conspicuous

conspicuous than Isaac Cornock, and the late Vesley Colclough, Esqs.—These gentlemen, by manly firmness, tempered with moderation and humanity, were at once the terror of the desperate and incorrigible, and the conciliators of those whom error and evil connections had led into excess; their efforts succeeded equally to their own honour, and the pacification of this extensive and respectable county.

The disturbances which prevailed at this time, and the want of military force in the country, gave rise to the volunteer associations, of which the county of Wexford is said to be the birth place. From 1775 to 1781, many corps of volunteers, both cavalry and infantry were raised in the county—they appointed their officers, purchased their own uniforms, and with the assistance of persons properly qualified, assembled regularly on parade, to acquire a knowledge of the military art. That upright senator, the Rt. Hon. George Ogle, one of the then representatives in parliament for the county, was chosen general in chief of the county volunteers; the greatest token of respect which then could be conferred.—In 1781,

the volunteers of Ireland had arrived at the highest pitch of greatness;—their numbers amounting to 40,000 men! It was suspected that the combined fleets of France and Spain were in the channel, and menaced the kingdom with immediate invasion, which might have been attempted with success, (the established force of the nation having been called away on foreign service) had not the volunteers from all quarters stepped forward, and offered their assistance to government. The fleets of the enemy, alarmed at our military preparations beheld the banners of defiance, and fled precipitate from our coasts. For this never-to-be forgotten service, the following resolutions of thanks were received from both houses of parliament.

“Martis, 9 die Octobris, 1781.

“RESOLVED, nem. con. that the thanks
“of this house be given to the volunteer corps
“of this kingdom, for their exertions and
“continuation; and particularly for their
“spirited preparations against a late threatened
“invasion.”

“THOMAS ELLIS,

“cler. parl. dom. com.”

Die

Die Mercuri, 16th Octobris, 1781.

“ RESOLVED, by the Lords spiritual and
 “ temporal in parliament assembled, that the
 “ thanks of this house be given to the several
 “ volunteer corps of this kingdom, for the
 “ continuation of their efforts in defence of
 “ this country, and for their spirited offers to
 “ government on the late alarm of an hostile
 “ invasion meditated against this kingdom.”

W. WATTS GAYER, }
 EDWARD GAYER, } cler. parl.

In the year 1793, a body of men styling themselves Defenders, whose principles were inimical to the government, and whose practice was contrary to all law, made their appearance in this county, committed many outrages and occasioned it great uneasiness. The town of Wexford in particular, that year witnessed the cruelty and treachery of those public disturbers, and the justice of heaven in their punishment. The following is an impartial account of that melancholy affair.

In the beginning of July, 1793, the town and vicinity of Enniscorthy, were greatly
 alarmed

alarmed at their appearance, their numbers amounting to about 1000, armed with guns, pikes, &c. but through the activity of the neighbouring gentlemen, they were dispersed, and two of the most active amongst them were made prisoners, committed to Enniscorthy castle, and the following day were transmitted, under a strong guard, to the goal of Wexford. The Defenders, dissatisfied at the treatment their associates had received, were determined to interpose, and rescue them by force, if not surrendered freely. On the morning of the 11th, an anonymous letter was received by an inhabitant of Wexford, desiring him to apply to the chief magistrate of the town, to have the prisoners released; that in case of refusal, a body of upwards of 3000 would arrive, and reduce the town to ashes. This threat was taken little notice of; nor did the inhabitants appear in the least alarmed, not imagining they would be so bold, as to make an attack on the town, which at that time was garrisoned by a detachment of the 56th regiment of infantry, commanded by Major Valotton, an officer of great merit, and amiable character,

ter, and who had been first aid-du-camp to gen. Elliot, at the siege of Gibraltar. About two o'clock the same day, an express arrived, informing the magistrates that the Defenders were approaching, not more distant than a quarter of a mile from the town, and that they had retained as their prisoner and hostage, Lieutenant Buckby, who was quartered in Taghmon, and had been in Wexford that day, alone, on military business. The alarm was now spread, and it was judged expedient to order out the military, at the sight of whom, it was imagined they would disperse. Accordingly about 50 soldiers, with three magistrates, headed by the brave Valotton, marched out to meet the Defenders, who were now at the upper end of the town, on the great road leading to Taghmon, in number about 2000, armed with guns, pikes, scythes, &c. The humane disposition of Major Valotton would not allow the military to act, without his first expostulating with the mob, and while he was in the act of harranguing them, and advising them to disperse quietly, and let the officer go to his command, one of the re-

bels

bels presented a musquet at him, which the Major parried off with his sword, and for that time saved his life. As the piece went off, the Major attempted to seize the villain; and while he was engaged with him, another rebel, with a scythe fastened on a pole, made a blow at the Major's head, which laid it open, and brought him to the ground, and at that instant he was stabbed with a pike in the thick part of his thigh, so deeply as to extend to the groin, and enter into the cavity of the abdomen. The soldiers seeing their beloved commander fall, fired without the order of the magistrates, and advancing on the rebels, put them to flight, after leaving nearly eighty of their associates dead on the spot, besides a number who afterwards died of the wounds they had received. Lieut. Buckby happily escaped, and in the confusion, joined the military. Many of the Defenders were made prisoners, five of whom, James Kenny, Patrick Flannery, Patrick Neil, Michael Carty, and John Crawford, were found guilty at the following assizes, and within two days after were executed.

The

The loyal inhabitants of Wexford were deeply affected with the tragical end of Major Valotton, and to shew their respect for his memory, erected a monument in the church, with the following inscription, which I here insert, not only to shew their love to that brave and humane man, but their determination to support the laws of their country:

Sacred to the Memory of the late
CHARLES VALOTTON, Esquire,
 A Major in the Army, and a Captain
 in the 56th Regt. of Infantry,
 who, in the Suburbs, on the 11th of July, 1793,
 when zealously co-operating with
 the Civil Power, in support of the
 mild and beneficent Laws of his Country,
 received a mortal Wound from a savage
 H A N D.

Thus untimely fell this accomplished Gentleman,
 not less admired and beloved for every

SOCIAL QUALITY,

than he was eminently distinguished on every
 occasion, by the enterprise and gallantry
 of a Soldier.

Reader! lament with every good Man,
 the irreparable Loss,
 and strive to emulate his many Virtues.

THE CORPORATION OF WEXFORD,

with becoming Gratitude,

erected this

MONUMENT,

to perpetuate their high respect for his
 inestimable Character.

The Defenders were headed that day by a man of a very resolute and undaunted disposition, named John Moore, a farmer, within a few miles of New-Ross. This man, on the first fire from the military, had both his legs broken; yet so very zealous was he in the cause, that he fought on his stumps, till he was left alone, and was shot by the military. There was also a priest killed, in whose pocket were found the articles of the popish faith.

As the corporation of Wexford erected a monument to the memory of Major Valotton, so the friends of Moore, the rebel leader, raised a tomb in the grave yard of Carnagh, near New Ross, to his memory, bearing the following inscription:

Underneath this stone doth lie
The remains of that Noble Boy,
Who by his deeds and actions brave,
In Wexford his body was brought to the grave.
Now each Christian, for him should pray,
And to Heaven straight direct his way,
As on his oath that day in trust did die,
Tis there he fought most manfully:

John Moore, son to James Moore, and Margaret White, of Robin's-town, who was killed by the army 11th July 1793, aged 22 years.

Lord have mercy on his soul,

After

After this eventful day, a meeting of the freeholders of the county was called by the high sheriff, who formed themselves into an association, and opened a subscription for the purpose of offering rewards for the apprehension, and prosecuting to conviction, those daring violators of their country's peace. The Defenders were so disheartened at the defeat of their associates, and seeing that the loyal inhabitants were determined that the laws of the country should not be trampled upon, that they never attempted afterwards to assemble in any number, tho' many felonious acts were afterwards committed.

About the latter part of the year 1797, it was discovered that the United Irishmen were carrying on their private meetings in this county, for the purposes already mentioned, * and to throw a better gloss on their diabolical schemes, false rumours were circulated by the agents of the Irish Union, that the Orange-men were to rise for the purpose of murdering all their catholic neighbours; when in fact there was no such thing as an Orange association.

* See page 7

formed in the county of Wexford; until a few months after the suppression of the rebellion, nor were there any Orange-men in the county at its breaking out, except a few in the towns where detachments of the North Cork regiment of militia were stationed. The magistrates and gentlemen of the county being alarmed at their proceedings, and dreading the consequence, were unwearied in their exertions to frustrate their pernicious designs.

In the beginning of the year 1798, it was observed that the Roman-catholics were very much devoted to their chapels: every day mass was celebrated throughout most parts of the country, whereas, formerly it was chiefly observed only on the Sabbath-day. The chapel of Ballycanow, was particularly well attended by a very numerous congregation, at both morning and evening prayers. Michael Murphy, was officiating priest of that Parish; a young man, strongly made, and of a dark complexion, had been a few years resident in the parish, and not long in holy orders, as the following letter of recommendation from

the

the Rev. § James Caulfield, parish priest of New-Ross, to Monseieur Le' Abbe Glynn, Communautaire des Irelandois, a Bourdeaux, in his favour will shew.

ROSS, OCTOBER, 23d, 1785.

"REV. SIR,

The Rev. Michael Murphy, a subject of the Diocess, and ordained a priest last Whitsuntide, now bound for your city, for the purpose of prosecuting his studies of Philosophy and Theology, craves a line from me in his favour to you. I can only say, he is well recommended to me, as a sober, regular, well behaved man, and if it is convenient to you, I shall esteem your accommodating him for the above end. I believe he is the last of the set that applied to me, wherefore I hope I shall not have occasion to trouble you again for some years.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JAMES CAULFIELD."

§ The above James Caulfield, is now the titular bishop of the diocess of Ferns, and resides in Wexford.

During

During Murphy's priestly office in Ballycanow, he behaved himself very well, and lived much in the esteem of persons of every persuasion, till the breaking out of the rebellion: he was a man of such profound policy, as not to be suspected of having any knowledge of their meetings and organization, till it burst forth like a torrent, overwhelming our happy and delightful country with ruin.

About this time, several persons were apprehended on the information of a man, of the name of Cooper, for being sworn United Irishmen, and were lodged in the county goal of Wexford; it was also discovered that the black-smiths were in the habit of manufacturing pikes for some time back; several were detected—one in particular, in the parish of Ballycanow, who acknowledged (on his being taken by Hawtry White, Esq. captain of the Ballaghkeene cavalry,) that he had been manufacturing them for upwards of a year before, without being suspected.

The county was now very much alarmed, and the magistrates assembled in Wexford, Enniscorthy

corthy and Gorey, to take into consideration the most advisable means to prevent the storm that was gathering over our heads.

The Earl of Mount Norris was very apprehensive that the consequences would be fatal; and being zealous for the peace, prosperity and welfare of the kingdom, rode, accompanied by some gentlemen, to the neighbouring chapels, at the time the congregations were assembled, and like a true friend to his country, expostulated with them on the unreasonableness of their proceedings, exhorting them to allegiance, reproving and advising them. His Lordship pointed out to them the happiness resulting from the constitution under which they lived; that a man of any persuasion whatever, though his descent were ever so mean, who should advance himself by any honest means into the world, and from nothing acquire abundance, would be protected by it, and that it was very wicked and ungrateful to attempt to destroy those protectors of our persons, rights and freedoms. That the laws of the realm protected the poorest cottager from the cruelties of a rich oppressor; that

that there was no such thing as wanton barbarity in our land. His Lordship entreated them to surrender the weapons of their rebellion, and invited them to come in and take the path of allegiance; he proposed to give them certificates of the same, and hoped they would return to their duty. They all seemed to be convinced, and several of the neighbouring parishes accordingly assembled, headed by their respective priests, and his Lordship administered to them the oath.

The parish of Bolavogue refused at first to comply, as the oath was found so strict; but Lord Mount Norris being displeased with their refusal, made use of some expressions, signifying, if they would not be persuaded, and take the oath, he would have the country so strongly defended, by quartering military in it, that they should then demean themselves as peaceable subjects through fear, if they would not now do it for love. This alarmed them, and they also conformed as the other parishes.

On the 19th of January, 1798, the Rev. Michael Murphy of the Parish of Ballycanow, drew

drew up his men, and marched them along to take the oath of allegiance, when Lord Mount-Norris administered the following :

" I do hereby declare upon the Holy Evangelist, and as I hope to be saved through the merits of my Blessed Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST, that I will be true and faithful to his Majesty King George the Third, and to the succession of his family to the throne ; that I will support and maintain the constitution as by law established ; that I am not a United Irishman, and that I never will take the United Irishman's oath ; that I am bound by every obligation human and divine, to give all information in my power to prevent tumult and disorder ; that I will neither aid nor assist the enemies of my King, or my Country, and that I will give up all sorts of arms in my possession : all the above I voluntarily swear, so help me God and my Redeemer !"

This oath was printed and given to each person that was sworn, and a certificate written on the bottom of it ; which ran thus :

D

" The

"The above oath was taken this 19th day of January, 1798, before me, by A. B. of Ballycanow parish."

"MOUNT NORRIS."

The different parishes were now perfectly secure, wrapped as in a mantle from all suspicion, after taking such a binding oath. They now became busy in making every necessary preparation; in appointing their captains, lieutenants and serjeants; in procuring and concealing fire-arms and ammunition; in swearing such as were not already initiated among them; in manufacturing pikes, and planning their different appointments. Timber was missing out of the gentlemen's nurseries; it was observed the woods and shrubberies were gleaned of such as would answer for the purpose of making pike-handles. This again alarmed the magistrates; it was too notorious not to be observed—the country wore so serious an appearance, that on application of the magistrates to government, 18 parishes were declared to be in a state of insurrection, and a proclamation was issued by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council to that effect.

In

In April 1798, the Lord Lieutenant, and Privy Council, issued another proclamation, declaring the entire county to be under martial law. Several persons were apprehended in the neighbourhood of Arklow, Gorey, Blackwater, Enniscorthy, Wexford, Ross, Newtown-barry, &c. The whole county was now in a state of disturbance; many persons being apprehended, were put into the county goal, and others detained in the different guard-houses.

The several parishes again formed another cloak, to throw over their dark and deep designs, by making new professions of loyalty, and drawing up and signing addresses; these they forwarded and presented to the Lord Lieutenant; and so effectually did they succeed, by insinuating themselves in the good opinion of the government, that no military force was appointed to keep the peace of the county, but what was already stationed in it, namely, part of the North Cork militia, and the county yeomenry.

Tho' it would probably weary the reader, as well as swell this volume beyond its in-

tended size, to insert all the addresses of the different parishes, yet it may be gratifying to many to see the nature of them ; I shall therefore insert one, from the parish of Ballycanow, which will enable the reader to form some idea of the rest.

At a general meeting of the Roman-catholic inhabitants of the parish of Ballycanow, in the chapel of Ballycanow, on Sunday the 1st of April, 1798, the following declarations of loyalty, were unanimously agreed to, and ordered to be forwarded to his Excellency Earl Camden, Lord Lieutenant, General and General Governor of Ireland.

“ May it please your Excellency,

We the Roman-catholic inhabitants of the parish of Ballycanow, in the county of Wexford, this day assembled at the chapel of Ballycanow, holding in abhorrence the barbarous outrages lately committed, and seditious conspiracies now existing in this kingdom, by traitors and rebels, styling themselves United Irishmen, think it incumbent on us, thus publickly to avow and declare, our unalterable attachment and loyalty to our most

revered

revered and beloved Sovereign, King George the Third, and our determined resolution to support and maintain his rights and our happy Constitution. And we do further pledge ourselves to co-operate with our Protestant brethren of this kingdom, in opposing to the utmost of our power any foreign or domestic enemy, who may dare to invade his Majesty's dominions, or disturb the peace and tranquillity of this country."

"Resolved, that the above declaration, be signed by our pastor, the Rev. Michael Murphy, and a few of the principal parishioners; and that the same be sent to the Right Hon. Earl Mount Norris, with a request that his Lordship will transmit it to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant."

"Rev. MICHAEL MURPHY,
COADJUTOR PRIEST."

James Kenny,	Michael Connors,
Patrick Fortune,	Thomas O' Neil,
John Murray,	Peter Hughes,
Patrick Roche,	John Beaghan,
Thomas Kelly,	Anthony Roche,
Morgan Kavanagh,	Michael Murphy,
Thomas Reynolds,	James Dealy,

Clerk of the day.

Lord

Lord Mount Norris having laid this declaration before the Lord Lieutenant, received the following answer :

DUBLIN CASTLE, 16th of APRIL, 1798.

" MY LORD,

I have the Lord Lieutenant's commands to take the earliest opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of the address which was presented to his Excellency, by your Lordship, from the Catholic inhabitants of the parish of Ballycanow.

His Excellency commands me to express to your Lordship the satisfaction with which he has received their address, and his entire reliance of loyalty and zeal manifested by the persons * who have subscribed it.

I have the honor to be, &c.

" CASTLEREAGH."

The following note from Lord Mount Norris to the Rev. Michael Murphy, on sending him the answer to their address, proves how much his Lordship must have been deceived by their declarations of loyalty :

* These very persons were more active than any in the parish during the rebellion !

" That

"That Lord Mount Norris felt highly gratified by being employed to convey the address of the Catholic inhabitants of Ballycanow to government, which was a striking test of their attachment to the Constitution, and which from his perfect knowledge of their sentiments, as well from the proof given by their oath of allegiance, he is convinced they are as anxious to support the Constitution, as any other members of the community : should occasion require their aid, he means to call upon them, persuaded of their anxiety to preserve the public welfare."

April 27th, 1798.

But notwithstanding this solemn oath and apparently loyal resolutions, the Protestant part of the community had still reason to fear. There was one circumstance which weighed very much upon their minds, and put many of them upon their guard, and which for the satisfaction of the reader, I shall now relate. About this time a vast deal of red tape was bought from the different country shop-keepers, but the quantity in general called for,

was

was not more than half a yard ; this was to be worn by the Roman-catholic children, both male and female round their necks ; had it been black, and confined only to females, it would not have been noticed, as black tape or ribbon was frequently worn by the young girls, but so many people purchasing this article, caused some enquiry, what use was all the red tape for ? as all in the country was bought up, and more ordered from Dublin. The result of the enquiries was : a priest (more holy than the rest) dreamed that there was to be a great plague among all children under 15 years old, belonging to their church ! The plague was, that their brains were to boil out at the back of their heads. He also dreamed, that there was a charm to prevent this bloody plague, which was, to get some red tape, and bring it to the priest to sprinkle *holy water* on it, and bless it, and the children were to wear it round their necks, till the month of May ; that then they might take it off, as it would be passed over and would not harm them.

This having transpired, priest Murphy was spoken to about it, by a friend of mine, who

was

was in the habit of intimacy with him ; being asked if he had dreamed such a thing ? He declared he had not ; yet acknowledged that he had seen the children wear it, but that he knew not the reason, and said he would speak publicly against it from the altar, next Sabbath ; which he certainly did. My friend replied, he believed he might with propriety do so, as in his opinion the plague was in a measure allayed, the secret committee which sat in Bridge-street, Dublin, being lately taken up by order of government, and hoped that with God's help, it would be a great means of doing the expected plague entirely away. It appeared further unto him somewhat like a mark to know their own children by, as the blood of the Paschal Lamb was to the Israelites, when the Angel of the Lord slew the first-born of the Egyptians.

How far my friend might be right in this conjecture, I shall not presume to say, but leave my readers to judge. I here relate it to shew why the Protestants were beginning to be much alarmed, lest they should fall a sacrifice to midnight assassination.

E

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding the dread which many loyal hearts laboured under, I could not be brought into the opinion, that a general massacre was intended, as I supposed no set of men in a christian land, would be guilty of what I afterwards saw, and which shall be recorded in its proper place.

During the month of May, several pikes were discovered; it was also found that different smiths were employed in making more, insomuch, that iron was prodigious dear, it being bought up for this purpose. Several United Irishmen were apprehended, and lodged in the different guard-houses; the yeomenry corps were ordered upon permanent duty, and constantly patrolled the roads during the night, to prevent the fatal consequences that otherwise would ensue. Night and day they were on horseback, both men and horses underwent great duty and fatigue.

From the 20th of May, till Whitfunday the 27th, there were great alarms; several men were apprehended, and the yeomenry by order of the magistrates, were under the disagreeable

agreeable necessity of flogging several, with intent to induce them to acknowledge where their murdering weapons were concealed. By this means, though painful to humane men, many pikes were taken up through the country: and many men who had been informed against, fled from their habitations.

On Thursday the 24th of May, Anthony Perry, a gentleman of easy fortune, and lately lieutenant in the Coolgreny cavalry, was arrested, and brought into Gorey. The country wore a threatening appearance, and rebellion, which sat brooding in every corner of our peaceful county, now began to rear its hideous form; the gathering storm which was thickening over us, seemed ready to burst around, and dispense death in a thousand awful forms!

Saturday the 26th, Beauchamp Bagnal Harvey, a gentleman of large fortune and respectability in the county, Edward Fitzgerald of New-park, and John Colclough of Ballyteigue, were arrested by an order from government, and lodged in Wexford goal. Now began

that devastation which this county never before experienced. The time arrived, when destruction and assassination (before masked in sacerdotal vestment,) laid the forsworn robe of deep hypocrisy aside, and stepped forth to drench the thirst of diabolical passions in the blood of Protestants!

This night John Murphy, priest of Boolavogue, was the first that marched out to proclaim that "the hour of liberty had arrived." He assembled his deluded flock, whom before he had often harrangued in discourses of sedition from the altar—and led them on to wreak their vengeance on those who opposed them in defence of their King and Constitution. While they were assembling, lieutenant Bookey, of the Camolin cavalry, a man of great bravery and conduct, rode that way, with only 17 or 18 of the troop. When they heard the horses advancing, they repaired inside of the road ditch, and lay in ambush: the lieutenant rode up, and called upon them to surrender their arms; on which they fired on the cavalry; it was instantly returned. They

kept

kept up a smart fire, and a continual shower of stones, one of which struck lieutenant Bookey, and dismounted him, and in a short time he was miserably butchered; another of his men was shot, the remainder finding it impossible to get through the hedge, seeing their danger in the road, and their officer slain, retreated to Ferns, leaving, as they afterwards heard, eight of the rebels dead on the spot.

The rebels now rejoiced in having put the cavalry to flight, and being spirited on by their holy commander, they rushed forward to Rockspring, the residence of lieutenant Bookey, whom they had murdered a few minutes before, screeching and howling, to gather the country people as they passed along.

The house was left in care of two Protestants, Jacob Ward, and Samuel Hawkins, and five Papists, the domestics of the late lieutenant Bookey. About one o'clock in the morning, the rebels approached, near 400 in number: three of the Papists stole away; two joined the rebels, and left only the two Protestants, with four guns to defend the house. When the
rebels

rebels advanced, they called out for the arms of the house; the two Protestants told them they should have them, and immediately discharged the four guns, loading and firing as quick as possible upon them. The rebels grew outrageous, surrounded the house, fired in at the windows, shouting and throwing stones, burst open the door with a sledge. They were heard to say, "come away before more of us are killed." When they entered the house, they lighted candles, and assembled in the hall; the two men above stairs ceased firing, and placed themselves on the stairs to prevent their coming up. Priest Murphy ordered the men who held the candles to go up stairs, and see who were in the house; they refused. He instantly drew his sword, and commanded them to go up, declaring in case of refusal, "he would cut their heads off." At this they ran up quickly; when on coming to the top they were instantly shot, and tumbled down on their companions. The rebels now became more outrageous, went into the kitchen and set the house on fire, then surrounded it, being determined not to let Ward or his companion escape.

escape. Others of them set some of the out-offices on fire: the two men above stairs with the most astonishing fortitude continued firing on the rebels, when they heard the floor under them crack, and presently give way to the devouring flames. Ward and his companion just escaped to the upper story, still keeping up the fire, the rebels all the time shouting and throwing stones. When the under floor fell, the smoke and flames ascended with such violence, that these two brave men were almost scorched with the heat and stifled with the columns of smoke. In this situation they were not able to fire, but their spirits were unsubdued, for Ward called to Hawkins to come to him, that they might die together, rather than yield to such murderers. It was now near day, when a servant of Mr. Bookey's, who had been sick, but found means to crawl out when the house was first set on fire, told the rebels that it was better for them to withdraw before the day appeared, as the many shots must have alarmed the yeomenry, who would be guided by the house on fire and, perhaps surprise them. They, supposing from

Ward

Ward and Hawkins's not firing, that they were consumed, thought the counsel good, and immediately marched off to capt. Cornick's, about half a mile distant, in search of arms. When they were gone, the servant called to Ward and Hawkins to go through a window on the top of a stable, adjoining the dwelling-house, that was not on fire, which they did, and by the good providence of God just escaped with their lives, having been nearly suffocated!

The rebels then proceeded towards Oulard, shouting and whistling to gather the surrounding country; they also robbed and burned all the Protestant houses in their way. In the morning (Whitfunday 27th May) they attacked the house of the Rev. Robt. Burrowes of Kyle, near Oulard, robbed it of arms, murdered him and five of his parishioners who had taken shelter in it, wounded his son and consumed the dwelling-house. The rebels were now ordered to assemble at Ballynamonabeg, between Oulard and Wexford, when the country presented a dismal appearance;—the different

corps

corps of cavalry burning the rebels houses on one side, while the rebels were consuming the dwellings of the Protestants on the other.

A few troops of cavalry, viz. Gorey, Earl Courtown's; Ballaghkeene, capt. White; part of Camolin, lieut. Smith; Castletown, capt. Knox, and Coolgreny, capt. Beauman; pursued the rebels towards Wexford, and came in sight of them at Ballymonabeg, within six miles of Wexford: they were moving in two divisions, one commanded by priest Murphy, and the other under the command of Edward Roache, of Garrylough, who was permanent serjeant in the Shilmalier cavalry, and had that morning, with 20, of 24 papists, who were in the troop, deserted to the rebels. There were now several thousand rebels gathered—they flocked hourly from every part of the country to the rebel standard. When they perceived the cavalry advancing, they opened to the right and left to receive them, and set up such a peal of shouting and yelling, as surpassed any thing that can be conceived. Capt. White, and the other officers, seeing their great num-

bers, principally armed with fire-locks and pikes, judged it the most judicious way, not to rush on their innumerable weapons, but to return and provide a reinforcement sufficient to engage them. The cavalry about 200, were badly provided with arms or ammunition, and the rebels some thousands strong. The different corps, therefore, retreated to Gorey the same day.

Another part of the Camolin cavalry, in scouring the other side of the country, were joined by Enniscorthy cavalry, capt. Richards; Healthfield cavalry, capt. John Grogan, together with Scarawalsh infantry, capt. Cornick, proceeding towards lieut. Bookey's house, saw him and John Donovan, one of his privates, dead in the road, their bodies mangled in a shocking manner: in the pocket of the former were found 75 guineas in gold, a guinea bank note, and his gold watch, which together with his body, were sent to his brother. Mr. Donovan's body was buried near where he fell. May their memory be dear to every lover of loyalty!

About

About the hour of ten o'clock, another body of the rebels assembled between Newtownbarry and Ferns, to the amount of about 500, and attacked the house of Mr. Dawson of Charles-fort, within 2 miles of Ferns; after plundering the house, wounding Mr. Dawson and murdering a Protestant, of the name of Willis, they proceeded to the house of the Rev. Francis Turner, of Ballingale, rector of Edeermine, a gentleman of excellent character. He had but just baptized a child, when the rebels surrounded the house, in the most outrageous manner, shouting and huzzaing, and immediately set the out offices on fire. Mr. Turner looking out at the window, enquired what they wanted? on which they desired him to surrender his arms, he refused to comply, and desired them to depart from his house. On their persisting to demand his arms, he replied that he would never surrender them but with his life, on which they fired through all the windows: there were six or seven Protestants with him, who fled to his house for safety, and were now determined to defend themselves to the last. For a considerable time they

made a very gallant resistance, by incessantly firing out upon the rebels, who were now exasperated to the most extravagant fury, and roaring like so many beasts of prey. During this great unequal conflict, Matthew Bulger, James Meagher, Denis Carty and another noted villain, with the greatest deliberation waited till Mr. Turner came to the window to discharge his piece: the four levelled together, and blew off the side of his face. Other persons within seeing him fall, ceased firing, and in the excess of their grief, neglected to defend themselves. At this time Michael Keough (his own proctor, a man that always received from the family, the most distinguished marks of real esteem, and was raised by them from poverty, to an easy comfortable way in the world) burst through the back window, being followed by two others, and set the study on fire, while those without, cut down the hall door, forced an entrance and rushed up stairs, where they found the unfortunate gentleman senseless, and covered over with blood: they treated him with the most savage brutality, left him mangled to pieces, and burned the house,

house, murdered nine of his Protestant neighbours, two of whom were the sponsors, and one the father of the infant he baptized. Poor Mr. Turner was consumed in the house, there was nothing of him found after but his bones. His family, and the children of his brother, counsellor Turner, through the wonderful interposition of providence escaped.

The rebels now exulting in their cruelty, plundered and burned all the Protestant dwellings round the country, and took post on Sleugh-boy hills, where the Carnew yeomenry; under the command of capt. Wainright, and lieut. Bookey, (brother to the late lieut. Bookey) attacked them and dispersed this body, which afterwards, assembled and joined the main body the same night on Corragrew-hill.

All the Protestants of the country now gathered to these towns in which military were stationed, Ross, Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey, &c. Now anguish and terror were painted in every loyal face: in Gorey alone there were 2000, souls who had left all their property behind, and taken shelter there, besides the inhabitants

inhabitants of the town. The streets were thronged with soldiers and yeomenry, the houses with loyalists, and fire-locks stationed at the windows, every moment expecting an attack. The trumpets sounding, and the drums beating to arms every half hour—all was melancholy and confusion! From Ross was sent an express to Waterford, and thence to Cork for a reinforcement. From Gorey, they sent to Arklow, which arrived in the evening of Whitsunday.

After the yeomenry had retreated to Gorey, the rebels in Ballynamonabeg began their murders; they went to the house of Samuel Maud, near Ballynamonabeg, a fine old man, who had attained the great age of 96, piked him in the throat and various parts of the body, till they killed him!

The town of Wexford was greatly alarmed at the rebels being so near, the consternation was inexpressible at their making such destruction among the poor Protestants—the whole country was in a cloud of smoke. It was therefore judged necessary to send out a detachment

tachment of the military who were quartered in the town, to reconnoitre and disperse them if possible—formerly 20 disciplined men would put to flight hundreds; but now they were sworn and headed by their priests, who were determined to fight hard. lieutenant-col. Foote, with major Lombard, captain D'Courcy, (brother to Lord Kinfaul) lieutenant-Barry, lieutenant. D. Williams, lieutenant. Ware, and an ensign, with 130 of the North Cork militia, immediately proceeded from the town to engage the rebels, who were by this time on their march to Oulard-hill, where the lieutenant-col. and his men came up with them.

The rebels perceiving the army advancing, lay in ambush in the ditches, the major led them on to engage the body on the side of the hill, not suspecting an ambuscade; after firing a few rounds, he incautiously charged them, they were instantly surrounded by the body, and immediately cut to pieces, the lieutenant-col. and two privates only escaping. How shall I attempt to describe the situation of Wexford, when the news arrived that the party

was cut off! The general distress and anguish! The screeching of the soldiers wives and children, tearing their hair and beating their bosoms, incapable of consolation, was melancholy beyond description! In every part there was weeping and wailing! so that a friend of mine went up into her garret to avoid the crying in the street, but still the dismal groans of the widow and fatherless assailed her; nor did she know the moment she would fall a sacrifice to her own servants who were papists. Miss Donovan feeling for the distress of one of the soldiers wives, ordered her a bottle of wine, and giving her a few shillings, the poor woman lay down and instantly expired.

The rebels plundered the soldiers of all their powder and ball, and being now strengthened with arms and ammunition, they marched to Carragrewa-hill, midway between Gorey and Enniscorthy, where they encamped that night, their numbers continually encreasing. Early the next morning, (28th May) they marched to Camolin, from thence to Ferns, plundering as they went along all the loyalists of arms

and

and ammunition. Becoming now very formidable, they marched for Enniscorthy, and halted within one mile of the town, expecting that captain Snow, of the North Cork militia, and the inhabitants, would send them proposals for surrendering. Here we shall leave them, and take a view of the neighbourhood of Gorey.

Early in the morning, Earl Courtown, and the officers received intelligence of the defeat of the army at Oulard-hill; it alarmed them very much, being convinced, should the rebels approach, they would not be able to stand against such a torrent of opposers. Knowing also the strength of Arklow, that they could not spare any more men, they judged it most prudent to march their forces thither, in order to strengthen the town, till reinforcements should arrive from other parts of the kingdom.

When the army began to march, they left several prisoners in the goal and guard-room, among whom was Mr. Perry; he was confined in a private house. They brought out three

or four prisoners, whom the yeomenry had taken the preceding day, with pikes, proceeding to join the rebels; these they shot in the street: they declared a little before they died, that some priests had inveigled them into the United business, Mr. Perry upon being liberated, headed the remainder of the prisoners with some rebels of the town, and marched to join the main body.

The inhabitants and country people seeing the army on the retreat, knew there was some weighty reason for it; they all followed, concluding the rebels were just at the town. It was a most distressing sight to see so many quiet inoffensive people, desert their dwellings and flying for their lives before those murderers, to a people whom they knew not; numbers of whom were without food, or money to procure it.

When they arrived in Arklow, the soldiers were quartered in the barracks, the yeomen, and their families were received into houses, but the poor country people *had not where to lay their heads*, for the houses could not nearly con-

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tain the fugitives, therefore many took up their abode in barns, and other out offices ; many lay in the church-yard, having the silent grave for their pillow, while numbers lay in open fields and ditches, in a perishing condition.

Gorey though deserted by the army, was still in the possession of the brave and resolute John Hunter Gowan, Esq. captain of the Tinehaly cavalry, and a few of the Tinehaly yeomen infantry, (for whom he went when the army evacuated the town,) and who were determined they would not retreat, except overpowered by numbers. The yeomenry in Arklow, were dissatisfied because they were not permitted to return and assist captain Gowan ; but on Tuesday, (29th May) an order arrived for them to march for Gorey, where they arrived that night, with 25 North Cork, 25 Antrim, and 20 Gorey infantry, under the command of captain Elliot, of the Antrim militia.

We shall now return to Enniscorthy—the rebels after halting some time, and perceiving no proposals coming to them, marched to Ballyorial-hill, heard mass from the celebrated

Priest Murphy, of Bolavogue, and from thence proceeded to storm the town. It was defended by 50 North Cork militia, capt. Snowe; Enniscorthy cavalry, capt. Richards; Enniscorthy infantry, capt. Pounden; and Scarawalsh infantry, capt. Cornick. This force was drawn to the upper end of the town to receive the enemy. The rebels began, by setting fire to the cabins outside of the town, and driving before them droves of cattle, to annoy the army. The action commenced by a heavy discharge of musquetry from the yeomen, and the loyalists, who were formed on the left of the yeomen. After a few well directed volleys, the rebels feigning to give way, crowded down and crossed the Slaney (which runs through the centre of the town to Wexford) above the bridge; this caused capt. Snowe to draw his men to the bridge to stop that pass. By this time the yeomen were forced to retreat, from where the action commenced, with the loss of about 30 horse and foot killed and wounded, and about 10 loyalists. The rebels flushed with the preceding day's victory, followed on the attack in an unprecedented and savage manner,

manner, surrounding the town and setting it on fire: many of the rebel inhabitants set their own houses on fire. The town being now in flames in every quarter, the disaffected inhabitants taking advantage of the smoke, fired on the army and yeomen, from the lanes and corners of the streets. The situation of the army and loyalists was truly perilous; being likely to be overpowered by the rebels, they fled with many of the inhabitants through the flames to Wexford, in the greatest disorder, leaving (after an action of three hours) 350 of the rebels dead. Now parents deserted their children, and children, their parents, husbands their wives, and wives their husbands, never to meet more—for many of the yeomen and loyalists who were wounded, would probably have recovered, but they were murdered by the merciless pike-men; many more, whom the tender ties of nature caused to cling to their wives and children, hoped for mercy from some one neighbour or other; but alas! there was no such thing! no mercy for any man who bore the name of *Protestant*, from the age of 15 and upwards! and some under that age

were

were put to death ! The Rev. Samuel Haydon, rector of Ferns, a very old man, was murdered and thrown out to be devoured by swine ; Richard Whealy, a lock-smith, near 100 years old, also fell a victim to their cruelty. The massacre became general as soon as they got possession of the town : some were murdered in the act of giving them freely of their own liquor ; witness, Edward Slye, was shot by his neighbour William Lee, while handing him a quart of beer—many were torn out of the arms of their wives and murdered before them in the most barbarous manner ; nor would those women be even permitted to bury their husbands ! Here now were hearts torn with sorrow of the deepest kind ; many a widow and fatherless orphan wept sore, while smoke and flames, blood and slaughter, shouting and blasphemy, triumphed in the desolation of this town !

The army having, as before mentioned, retreated to Wexford, the poor women and children that fled with them, had hearts full of grief and sorrow ; great was the alarm in

Wexford

Wexford, when they arrived, and brought the dismal tidings. They expected an immediate attack on Wexford; therefore every exertion was made for its defence; barriers were erected of wood and stone, in all the leading passes to the town: regular cavalry picquets patrolled the roads, two or three miles out of the town, and all the loyalists volunteered to defend it. They were stationed at the different barriers with the Wexford infantry, capt. Jacob, and the Shelmalier infantry, capt. Rt. Hon. George Ogle; together with the North Cork militia, and they who retreated from Enniscorthy. On this night the portcullis of Ferry Carrigg-bridge was rendered impassable.

Fitzgerald and Colclough were taken out of the goal, and dispatched to Enniscorthy to dissuade the rebels from their proceedings, and to preserve the lives of the Protestants. Nothing could exceed the joy at Enniscorthy on their arrival, and Fitzgerald was styled by them *Lord Edward Fitzgerald*. John Murphy marshalled his men, and led them up to Vinegar-hill, which rises in the form of a cone,

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and commands the town; here he displayed the rebel standard and celebrated mass, exhorted them to a steady loyalty, as the glorious *epoch* had arrived to retrieve the ancient rights and freedoms, and shake off the intolerable yoke of *heresy, and heretical government*, under which they had groaned so long. The same evening he formed their camp on this hill, and chose himself, Fitzgerald and Edward Roche, of Garrylough, the principal commanders.

On Tuesday night 29th of May, they marched to the Three Rocks, within three miles of Wexford, on the Taghmon road, and Murphy carried a large crucifix before him on the saddle. During this day every preparation was making to receive them, and a detachment of 200 of the Donegal militia having arrived from New Geneva, under the command of col. Maxwell, for the present revived the drooping spirits of the poor loyalists; they strengthened the barriers, and planted their cannon in the most eligible manner. They also pulled down all the thatched houses to prevent the disaffected

disaffected party from following the example of their associates at Enniscorthy; thus considering themselves perfectly secure, they waited the arrival of the enemy.

Early on Wednesday morning, the 30th of May, the picquet brought intelligence of the rebels being on the Three Rocks, and an account of gen. Fawcet, with the 13th regiment, being on their march from Waterford; this was comfortable news, as the enemy was so near; but the 13th halted at Taghmon, with gen. Fawcet, and sent a detachment of the Royal Meath militia, to the relief of Wexford, but to their great surprise, perceived the enemy had intercepted their march by their position on the Three Rocks; they were determined however not to retreat till they had proved their strength, and boldly marching on to engage them with three howitzers, so tremendous a fire opened upon them from the rebels, as the party could neither withstand nor return, the rebels being above 20,000, and the detachment but 96 men. The rebels poured down the rocks like a torrent, and taking the howitzers,

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the soldiers made a precipitate retreat to Taghamon, with the loss of about twenty taken prisoners and fifty killed; from thence they marched to Duncannon-fort.

In Wexford they thought it more advisable to march against the enemy, rather than let them approach the town; on which the Donnegal militia, commanded by col. Maxwell, and three troops of cavalry, commanded by the brave col. Watson, marched to the Three Rocks, not thinking the Royal Meath had yet arrived. They formed, and began the attack, when to their astonishment, it was returned with a heavy discharge of musquetry, and the howitzers taken a little before. Knowing now it would be but a waste of blood to continue the engagement, both from the number of the enemy, and their advantageous situation, they retreated in good order without any loss, save one private, and the brave col. Watson who unfortunately fell in the action.

When they arrived in Wexford, they were doubtful, notwithstanding their strength, whether they should be able to keep the town:

as the rebels were victorious every where, and not foiled in any action, it was no wonder they should be in doubts; many of the Papists that were appointed to defend the barriers deserted, and they had every thing to fear from those in the town, should they fire from the houses as they did in Enniscorthy. James Boyd, Esq. member of Parliament for the borough of Wexford, and captain of the Wexford cavalry, captain Ogle, Ebenezer Jacob, Esq. captain of the Wexford infantry, and other officers held a council of war, and consulted whether they should evacuate the town or defend it? After some deliberation, it was judged most prudent to evacuate the town. Captain Jacob coming to his post at the West-gate, reported the matter which caused many tears to be shed by his yeomen; he proposed sending some persons to the rebel camp to surrender the town, provided the enemy would be honorable, and not destroy the persons or property remaining therein; his first lieutenant (William Hughes, Esq.) felt much on this subject, and asked "what honor can be expect-

“ed from rebels?” However, as there was no time to be lost, counsellor Richards and his brother were dispatched to the enemy with the terms. Those gentlemen tied handkerchiefs round their hats, as a signal of truce, and calling at some cabins on the road, took several of the people with them to pass them by the rebel centinels. When they arrived at the Three Rocks, and delivered their proposal, (which was a verbal one,) they found themselves in a very alarming situation; some were disposed to hearken, others to murder them: They were obliged to promise “that all the cannon, arms and ammunition should be delivered; on which they sent Edward Fitzgerald and counsellor Richards to town, and detained his brother as a hostage till Fitzgerald should return. When they came to town all the army were withdrawn, (except captain Jacob and his corps) and had taken all the military stores with them; this had like to have proved fatal to the two Mr. Richards. Some of the Wexford infantry threw their arms and ammunition into the river, lest they should fall into the hands of the

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rebels. As the army were retreating to Duncannon Fort, they were attacked in many places by small parties of rebels, who were going to join the main body; these they put to flight, and killed many of them.

As the drums did not beat a retreat, the Wexford infantry were ignorant of what had passed, till the army had marched off. Several of the inhabitants fled with the army, others to the quay, and got on board of some ships, with intention to sail for Wales; the vessels were crowded with men, women, and children; several happily escaped, but others were deceived by the perfidious owners, who steered up the river till the rebels had entered the town, and then brought them to shore. With broken hearts, they were obliged to return to their dwellings, to meet death with as much fortitude as they were capable of. In this distressing and dismal manner was Wexford, when delivered up to the rebels. Such cowardice as they evinced on entering the town, (lest they had heard a false report of the army retreating) was ridiculous; but as this

is a matter of no moment, I pass it over.— Soon as they took possession of the town, they began to plunder and drink spirits, and some fell victims to their rage. Mr. John Boyd, brother to capt. Boyd, was murdered in a most savage manner; they had not charity to kill him at once, but let him linger all night on the bridge near the goal, bathed in his blood, writhing with pain, and unable to crawl under the shelter of a house; and notwithstanding above 20,000 rebels were in the town, not one had the smallest degree of commiseration for his distress, but at last one more compassionate than the rest, knocked his brains out with a hatchet. Thus ended the days of Mr. John Boyd, and thus was Wexford taken possession of by the rebels on Wednesday the 30th of May.

On the 31st, intending to wave the banners of rebellion far and near, their commanders led their men up to the Three Rocks; there formed them into three separate bodies, one under B. B. Harvey, (who with the prisoners who were let out of confinement when the town was taken,) and Priest Phillip Roche, of
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Poulpearsey, destined to march against Ross; another, under the command of captain Doyle and capt. Redmond, from the Queen's county, nephew to Priest Edward Redmond, of Ferns, who with Priest Kearns, also went with this body to Vinegar-hill, to attack Newtown-Barry; and the third body was under the command of Anthony Perry, Priest Murphy, of Ballycanow, and Priest Murphy, of Boolavogue, destined to march against Gorey, each to commence an attack on the first of June.

Thus the rebel army was divided into three separate bodies for the above end, and moved off the Three Rocks at the same time, for their different stations, sure of victory from their numbers and successes. B. B. Harvey marched to Taghmon, and was greatly reinforced from that quarter; he formed his camp on Carrigburn, which was head quarters. The body under Doyle, Redmond, Priests Redmond and Kearns, marched to Vinegar-hill, hundreds flocking to their standard; and Priest Murphy led his men through Oulard, burning all the Protestant

* The parish priests did not in general attend the camps on duty, only at pleasure, but they sent their curates.

Protestant houses along the road. It was agreed between him and Perry to make two divisions of their men, one under Perry to encamp on Carragrewa-hill, on the night of the first of June, and Murphy to encamp on Ballymenane-hill, within two miles of Gorey, and wait the arrival of Perry, then with their united armies, to attack the town at dawn of day on the second of June, in every direction. Here we shall leave them, and return to Vinegar-hill.

Early in the morning of the first of June, Vinegar-hill camp, amounting to near 14000 men, after mass was celebrated, and many prayers offered for their success, were marched to Newtown-Barry, situated on the borders of the counties of Carlow and Wexford. It has all the beauty of art and nature, lies in a valley, surrounded on one side by the beautiful river Slaney, which rises out of the mountains, near the Seven Churches, in the county of Wicklow, and taking a southerly course passing through the towns of Baltinglas, Ravilly, Tullow, Newtown-Barry and Enniscorthy,

corthy, is lost in the sea, a small distance below the town of Wexford. It is also surrounded on other sides by hills, which command a most delightful view of the town and the adjacent country. The fine demesne of John Maxwell Barry, Esq. colonel of the Cavan militia, heightens the beauty of this little town: it has hill and vale, wood and water.

The yeomenry and soldiers here, were under severe and constant duty since the surrender of Enniscorthy and Wexford. Their strength was but very small, to cope with so numerous and powerful an adversary, being only 230 of the King's county militia, with two battalion guns, commanded by colonel L'Estrange; 80 yeoman infantry, including 30 volunteers; 60 Newtown Barry cavalry, capt. Kerr; 20 of the 4th dragoons, and Carlow cavalry, capt. Cornwall, to oppose 10,000 men* hitherto victorious every where they went.

The picquet who were reconnoitring, commanded by Capt. Keri, brought intelligence about

* They always left a strong force to maintain conquest in Enniscorthy and Wexford.

about twelve o'clock, that the rebels were approaching the town in two columns, on each side of the Slaney. The army and yeomen were drawn up in a strong position to receive them, and were determined on selling the victory as dear as possible. The rebels took their station on a hill which commanded the town, and played on the army with a brass six-pounder, a howitzer, and some ship-swivels, without doing the least injury. Perceiving this, they made a rapid descent from the Slate-quarry and the hills adjoining, confident the town would be their own. Colonel L'Estrange, without firing on them with his battalion guns, drew his men out of the town, a mile up the road leading to Carlow, ordering the cavalry to cover his retreat.— The rebels entering the town, set the suburbs on fire, plundered the army's baggage, burst open the cellars, and drank spirits in such abundance, that becoming intoxicated, they ranged thro' the town, shouting and hallooing without any order. This confusion was much increased by the loyalists firing from several of the houses, against which they soon bent all
their

their fury. The yeomen, (those saviours of their country, and the bulwark of the Irish nation, ever firm and steady to their King and happy constitution,) entreated colonel L'Estrange to return and attack them with his cannon, alledging, that as they were quite intoxicated, void of any order, and not expecting danger, they would soon be overpowered. He complied with their earnest solicitations, and, returning instantly to the town, gave them a few discharges of his cannon and musquetry e'er they could form, which threw them into the greatest confusion. It was soon encreased by a fierce attack in all directions, headed by the gallant capt. Kerr, and the brave major Marley, who volunteered with the King's county militia. They charged them up the hills near four miles, taking down all before them, which would have been far more, but they scattered so much in their flight; however they lost near 250, without any loss on the King's side, save one killed, and one of the Carlow cavalry wounded.

There were two car-loads of cannister-shot taken, and a quantity of guns, pikes, &c. which they threw away in their flight: those pikes were broken and burnt.

The praise of this victory is due to the yeomenry, who refused retreating to Carlow. It was a victory of the utmost importance to the kingdom, as it prevented a junction with the Carlow and Kildare rebels, who were expecting to join them the following day, and revenge their defeat in Carlow on Friday* the 25th of May before; for, had they gained Newtown Barry, all the county of Carlow and Kildare would have been in the possession of the rebels, who could with ease, from their superior numbers, penetrate into the interior of the King and Queen's county, or have joined the Colliery rebels. The drawing off the troops out of the town, was the loss of some property; but it gave the army an opportunity of surprizing the plunderers, and throwing

* There was a battle in Carlow the day before the rebellion broke out in this county, in which the King's troops were victorious.—See Jones's Narrative, page 35.

throwing them into confusion. The conduct of both officers and men, on this memorable day, was truly meritorious. The rebels, on their retreat to Vinegar-hill, burnt a great number of Protestants houses.

It has been before observed that Priest Murphy, of Ballycanow, led his men through Oulard, consisting of about 1000, burning all the Protestants houses along the road, and after filling the country with clouds of smoke, he arrived at Ballycanow on the 1st of June, where he celebrated mass, and intended to remain there that day, encamp on Ballymenane-hill that night, and begin the attack on Gorey as before predetermined.

Captain Elliott was still in Gorey with his handful of men, expecting reinforcements from Dublin, but none had yet arrived. The picquet having been out towards Ballycanow reconnoitring, brought in an account that the rebels were drove out of that town, after a few scattering ones had been killed, and that the body seem destined for Gorey; on which the drums beat to arms, the trumpets sounded, and every preparation was made

to

to meet them. Seventy-two infantry, commanded by capt. Elliott; Ballaghkeen cavalry, capt. White; Camolin cavalry, lieut. Smith; and Gorey cavalry, lieutenant Woodrooffe, marched out to meet the enemy. The rebel scouts descried them descending Ballymenane-hill, and formed in a field outside the town ten deep, several hiding behind the ditches to fire on the army as they passed. Advancing about a mile, the rebels formed in the road, and opened a heavy fire of musquetry; but it was returned with more execution, as a great number of the enemy fell. An incessant fire was kept up for almost an hour, when the rebels began to be dismayed at seeing so many of their men fall, and perceiving the army still approach in flow and regular order, without the loss of a man, they broke and fled in all directions; the cavalry charged and cut them down without taking any prisoners.— There fell about 150 in this action, and several of the wounded lay in corn-fields, ditches, and meadows, being unable to go farther, where they expired; and the dogs of the country after some time carried their arms and legs from

from ditch to ditch, and from field to field. After the action, the army entered Ballycanow, where they destroyed and burnt many houses belonging to rebels. This little victorious army returned into Gorey, with above 100 horses taken from the enemy, some guns, pikes, and two green standards, without the loss of a man. Thus the rebels were defeated in two actions on this day, and it prevented the assault on Gorey on the next, as was intended. The rebels retreated to Carrigrewa-hill.

When Perry heard of Priest Murphy's defeat, he was determined to force Gorey, knowing if he could effect this, it would open a communication with the county of Wicklow rebels; therefore, on the next day, he sent an express to Vinegar-hill and Wexford for a reinforcement, as he thought it advisable for the two camps to form a junction, and their united forces to operate against Gorey. On Monday morning Priests Kearns and Redmond adopted the plan, and 12,000 men were sent to Carrigrewa-hill the same night;

Perry

Perry himself had near 8000. Though they were now a formidable body, messengers were sent through the country, desiring every person to repair to camp. On the following day (Sunday the 3d of June) all the people between Carrigrewa and Wexford arrived, and along with them part of the Shelmalier cavalry well mounted, which had deserted with Edward Roach, their permanent serjeant, on the Sunday before.

On the third of June gen. Loftus arrived in Gorey with a considerable force, consisting of the Dunbarton fencibles, Londonderry and Armagh militia, the Tyrone and Suffolk light companies, a detachment of the Antrim militia, part of the Antient Briton fencible cavalry, with their commander Sir Watkin Wynne, and the Arklow yeomen cavalry and infantry. Thus great preparations were making for the next morning.

On Monday the priests celebrated mass on the hill, and made every preparation to march against Gorey, not knowing a reinforcement had arrived. They distributed
ball-

The military were drawn up in the street of Gorey very early in the morning, and about ten o'clock were marched out of town in two divisions to surround the hill; not having a reconnoitring party out, they did not know the rebels were coming that way against them. General Loftus, with his division kept to the left, with 1000 foot, two battalion guns, and some corps of yeomen cavalry, to surround the hill on one side; colonel Walpole turning to the right, marched through Clough, with 200 foot, three battalion guns, the Antient Britons, and a few corps of yeomen cavalry, to surround the hill on the other side. Thus they divided, and marched without an advanced guard, which in cases of this kind ought not to be neglected, as it prevents the party being surprised by the enemy, till they are in readiness to receive them, as the event of this day will fully prove. The advanced guard of the rebels, on perceiving colonel Walpole's division meeting them, galloped back with the intelligence; and priest John Murphy, who was commander in chief, being at the head, ordered them to halt, and

K

placing

placing all the gun's men inside of the ditches, drew up his cannon in the centre of the road, waiting the arrival of the army, being sure of success from their numbers, as they exceeded 20,000. The army still advanced, apprehending no danger; but nothing could equal their astonishment, when the rebels started up around them on each side of the road, and opened on them a most tremendous fire of musquetry under cover of the ditches. When the action began, Edward Fitzgerald was a mile behind; he instantly turned his horse to the ditch, leaped into the fields, and rode to the front of the action, proclaiming as he passed along, "Now my boys, surround them, surround them!" The soldiers fought gallantly, and with their grape-shot killed above 100 of the enemy in the fields: but colonel Walpole fell early in the action; he received a ball in the thigh, and in a moment another through the head, by which means this brave soldier fell a victim to his own rashness. The army now seeing their colonel fall, and the rebels surrounding them, fought retreating into Gorey, lest the enemy should intercept

intercept them, leaving behind their cannon, the horses of which were killed, and with difficulty got off their baggage and ammunition carts. From thence they retreated without delay to Arklow, followed by men, women and children, who had returned. The rebels entered Gorey, and the same evening took their station on Gorey-hill.

General Loftus had marched two miles when he heard the firing. He was accompanied by some yeomen who knew the country; they informed him they thought by the firing, the army was retreating into Gorey, but he expecting colonel Walpole would defeat them, proceeded on his route to intercept their retreat. Marching through Ballycanow, and taking a circuit of nine miles round to Gorey again, he found the army had retreated; and, arriving on the scene of action, he saw, what before he would not believe, the army defeated, and the body of colonel Walpole stripped to his shirt and flannel waistcoat, and about thirty of the soldiers mangled with the rebels pikes. None of the rebels

that were killed were lying there, as they were remarkable for carrying away the dead and wounded, lest the army should know how many were slain. Here general Loftus ordered many horses to be shot that were in the fields, lest the rebels should get them again. When he came in view of the rebels on the hill, he halted. They fired two shots from their cannon, one of the balls fell within a few perches of the army: one of the yeomen alighted and took it up. They marched to Carnew, and from thence to Hacket's-town, in the county of Carlow.

The rebels, now secure of their conquest, began to dress food, having killed several fat cows, bullocks and sheep; then began to plunder the town, carrying away all the goods furniture, and every thing of value they met with, to their own houses. In the evening they all got intoxicated, and were lying in their camp, and the town incapable of defence; 100 soldiers might that night have destroyed them all. The following morning they issued a proclamation to the following effect:

effect: "Any one harbouring Protestants, and not bringing them to the camp, shall be shot and his house burned." They shot several Protestants whom they had taken in their different marches; and on Tuesday burned the elegant seats of the two Mr. Ram's and Mr. Gowan's, near Gorey—sent parties into the country, haling in all the Protestants who had not escaped, and burning as they thought proper.

By this time my readers may wish to hear something of the party destined for Ross.

They marched from the Three Rocks on the 31st of May, and on the first of June, formed their camp on Carrig-burne; but the numbers that were flocking to them from every quarter, most fortunately prevented the attacking of Ross on the day intended, imagining they would be invincible in a few days, Ross, Duncannon-Fort, and Newtown-barry, being the only places in the county occupied by the loyalists. They halted on the above hill, and remained there

there till the fourth of June, during which time they plundered, robbed, or burned all the Protestants houses in this part of the country, and sent detachments of pikemen round the country, to seize on all the Protestants who were not so fortunate as to make their escape to some garrison town.— They then took them to camp, and had them tried by their officers. On the first of June several being tried and condemned, were taken immediately a few yards from their tribunal and shot. After this day some were put into the house and barn of Mr. King, of Scullabogue, under the hill, and others were admitted into the rebel ranks. Many of the prisoners were brought from the parish of Old-Ross, others from the neighbourhoods of Feathard and Tintern. On the first of June the church of Old-Ross was burned.

On the morning of the fourth of June they marched from Carrig-burne, leaving a guard of about 300, with John Murphy, Nicholas Sweetman, and Walter Devereux, rebel captains; and on the evening of the same day
took

took their station on Corbet-hill, the seat of Edward Murphy, Esq. within half a mile of Ross. Here they got wine and spirits, and were in a state of intoxication during the night, intending to attack the town early the ensuing morning with a force of 37,000, as nearly as could be judged!

Fortunately Lord Mountjoy, with the Dublin county militia from Cork, arrived in Ross this evening, which greatly rejoiced the whole garrison, whose actual strength was at this time as follows:

Detachment of the 5th and 9th dragoons, commanded by captain Irvine.

Mid-Lothian fencible cavalry, lieutenant colonel Sir James Fowles.

Detachment of the British Horse Artillery, captain Bloomfield.

Ditto Irish Flying Artillery, captain Thornhill.
4th flank battalion; lieutenant colonel Stewart,
of the 89th regiment.

Detachments of the Royal Meath, Clare and Donegal regiments of militia.

Dublin county militia.

Ross

Rofs yeomen cavalry and infantry, besides small parties belonging to country corps. Major general Johnson, commander in chief. Major general Eustace, second in command.

Rofs is a considerable town on the Eastern bank of a large river bearing its own name, which is here very deep and over which an elegant wooden bridge, 730 feet long, and 40 feet broad, was erected in the year 1795, by Cox, the Bostonian architect. The town lies at the bottom of a very steep hill, down which most of the roads into it are carried; it is not fortified—there are some remains of an old wall which formerly surrounded it, but it is now in a very ruinous state.

In the evening the army picquet saw the rebels approaching, and taking possession of Corbet-hill; they gave three cheers and discharged a field-piece at them; but as there were evening guns fired, the garrison took no notice of it. The whole garrison was drawn up on the quay, at the evening parade, when an express arrived to gen. Johnson, from the officer of the guard, that the rebels were approaching

"plunder to the ruin of the innocent. Flushed with victory, the Wexford forces now insurmountable and irresistible, will not be controled if they meet with resistance. To prevent the total ruin of all property in the town, I urge you to a speedy surrender—a surrender which you will be forced to in a few hours, with loss and bloodshed; as you are surrounded on all sides, your answer is required in a few hours. Citizen Furlong comes with this letter, and will bring the answer.

"I am Sir, &c. &c. &c.

"B. B. HARVEY, M. G."

Camp, Corbet-hill, half past

3 o'clock,

Tuesday, 5th June, 1798.

When Furlong advanced to the guard with his flag of truce, he was shot, his pockets rifled, and the summons found and forwarded. The rebels spent the night firing cannon and musquetry, and now and then huzzaing, to keep up their courage and to animate each other.

L

The

The situation of the Dublin county militia was peculiarly distressing; they were nearly worn down by hard marching, enfeebled with hunger and thirst, without time or means to refresh themselves, and in this condition had to oppose a cruel enemy. §

The advanced guard had so much curiosity, that a little after Furlong was killed, they crept under cover of the ditches to take a view of the rebel camp; their appearance was rather disorderly, some were walking about, some singing songs, and others talking, but all apparently in a state of intoxication. When they had in some measure satisfied their curiosity, they thought very bad of returning to their station, without firing a few shots among them; four or five of them raising their pieces, gave them such an unexpected volley, as caused them to start up and look about, but they could see no one. Hundreds of them fired in every direction, but knew not at what, the soldiers having crept back unperceived. A messenger was instantly dispatched to Harvey with information, that the
army

§ Whent hey arrived at Ross they had not time to partake of any refreshment, but marched to meet the enemy.

army was surrounding them, that some of their men were killed, and others dying by the wounds they had just received ; on which he ordered them to pour forth on all sides like a torrent, which they did, and were near intercepting a party of the Mid-Lothian cavalry, (which had been out reconnoitring) in their retreat into the town. Between three and four o'clock the battle commenced, the picquets and out-posts though drove into town, kept up a very smart fire on the enemy. I shall here insert an account of the battle, which was delivered to me by a person who was an eye-witness, and on whose veracity I can depend.

"The rebels advanced, driving before them all the black cattle they could collect through the country, to disorder our ranks; which was in some measure prevented, by a few discharges of grape shot. The action commenced by the 4th flank battalion; indeed such a close well directed fire I never before saw. I was an idle spectator for upwards of two hours and an half. Near 7 o'clock the

army began to retreat in all directions. I had the honour to command a six-pounder field piece. The rebels pouring in like a flood, artillery was called for, and human blood began to flow down the street. Though hundreds were blown to pieces by our grape shot, yet thousands behind them, being intoxicated with drinking during the night, and void of fear, rushed upon us. The cavalry were now ordered to make a charge through them, when a terrible carnage ensued; they were cut down like grass; but the pike-men being called to the front, and our swords being too short to reach them; obliged our horse to retreat, which put us in some confusion. We kept up the action till about half past eight; which was maintained with such obstinacy on both sides, that it was doubtful who would keep the field. They then began to burn and destroy the town—it was on fire in many places in about 15 minutes. By this time the rebels advanced as far as the main-guard, where there was a most bloody conflict, with the assistance of two ship guns placed in the street, they killed a great number of them, and beat them back for some time. The

Dublin

Dublin county regiment, headed by their colonel, made another attack on the rebels; the action being now revived in all quarters of the town with double fury, many heroes fell, and among them the brave Mountjoy, which so exasperated his regiment, that they fought like furies—now indeed was the scene bloody. Our forces the third time being overpowered, by the weight of such a body pouring down upon us, we retreated beyond the bridge, when general Johnson came galloping up, crying “soldiers, I will lay my bones this day in Ross, “will you let me lie alone?”

Major Vesey of the Dublin county, the next in command to Lord Mountjoy, led his men over the bridge again, exhorting them to revenge, for the loss of their colonel. The whole brigade (except some who fled to Waterford) being led on by general Johnson, (as brave a commander as ever drew a sword,) were determined to take the town, to conquer or to die. Again we opened a tremendous fire on the rebels, which was as fiercely returned. We re-took the cannon which was taken

taken from the king's forces in a former engagement, and turned them on the enemy. The gun I had the honour to command, being called to the main-guard, shocking was it to see the dreadful carnage that was there; it continued for half an hour—it was obstinate and bloody—the thundering of cannon shook the town, the very windows were shivered in pieces with the dreadful concussion; I believe there were 600 lying in the main-street—they would often come within a few yards of the guns. One fellow ran up and taking off his hat and wig, thrust them up the cannon's mouth the length of his arm, calling to the rest, “blood-an-ounds my boys come take her now, she's stopt, she's stopt.” The action was doubtful and bloody from four in the morning, till four in the evening, when they began to give way in all quarters, and shortly after fled with speed in every direction, leaving behind them all their cannon, baggage, provisions, and several hogsheds of wine, whiskey, brandy, &c. which we spilled, lest they should have poisoned them. It was

past

past five before we finally routed them. The computation of the dead, is as near as I can furnish you with,

3400 buried,

62 car-fuls thrown into the river.

60 car-fuls taken away by the rebels.

Some of them have since acknowledged, that those cars were brought to carry away the plunder of the town. In their flight, several dead bodies were thrown into the houses which were on fire, and consumed, so that it is almost impossible to ascertain, but from every account that I can learn, 7000 rebels lost their lives on this day. I know soldiers that fired 120 rounds of ball, and I fired 21 rounds of cannister-shot with the field-piece I commanded."

During the action, general Johnson was still in the hottest part of the fire—he had three horses shot under him: if he saw any of the men too forward, he would ride up and say, "brother soldier, stay till we all go together." He would encourage them that were behind. Being once in a hot fire, one of the soldiers called

called to him to remove out of that, or he would be slain ; he waved his hand and replied, " That ball was never made by a rebel, that is " to kill general Johnson."

Mr. Michael M' Cormick, an inhabitant of the town, fought that day, having on his head a brazen helmet ; he was formerly a quartermaster in the 5th dragoons ; his valour could not be exceeded—he rallied the men over and over during the engagement. Wherever a soldier would attempt to shelter himself from the heavy fire of the enemy, he would surely find him out, and drive him into the action again—he was every where ; his conduct was truly praise-worthy. Before the battle began all the inhabitants fled over the bridge, into the county of Kilkenny, except M' Cormick's wife, who staid in town, and was employed during the battle mixing wine and water for the soldiers ; which must have been very grateful to them, being fatigued with hard fighting, also from the heat of the day, and of the town which was on fire in many places.

RETURN

RETURN

*Of the killed, wounded and missing of the Troops
engaged at Ross, on the 5th of June, 1798.*

OFFICERS KILLED.

Colonel Lord Mountjoy, Dublin county militia—cornet Ladwell, 5th dragoons.

WOUNDED.

Major Vesey, Dublin county militia.

Captain Sinclair, Donegal militia.

MISSING.

Capt. Warburton and lieut. Flinter, Queen's county militia.

Lieut. Harford, Kilkenny militia.

Lients. Blake and Butler, 89th, attached to light battalion.

N. B. Quarter-master Hay, Mid Lothian, killed.

PRIVATES.

5th dragoons.—1 serjeant, 26 rank and file, 26 horses, killed; 1 rank and file wounded;

1 serjeant, 3 rank and file, 2 horses, missing.

9th dragoons.—4 rank and file, 5 horses, killed; 1 trumpeter, 4 rank and file, wounded.

M

Mid

Mid Lothian.—6 rank and file, 3 horses, killed; 2 rank and file, 1 horse, wounded; 1 horse missing.

Ross Cavalry.—1 rank and file wounded.

British Horse Artillery.—1 rank and file, 9 horses, killed; 2 rank and file, 4 horses, wounded; 1 rank and file, 1 horse, missing.

Irish Flying Artillery.—1 rank and file, 11 horses, killed; 2 rank and file wounded; 12 rank and file missing.

Fourth Flank Battalion.

North Mayo.—2 rank and file, wounded; 1 serjeant, 7 rank and file, missing.

Antrim.—4 rank and file killed; 5 rank and file wounded; 4 rank and file missing.

Kilkenny.—1 rank and file killed, 4 rank and file missing.

Queen's county.—1 serjeant, 1 rank and file killed; 6 rank and file wounded, 6 rank and file missing.

Clare.—1 serjeant, 1 drummer, 3 rank and file killed; 2 rank and file wounded, 10 rank and file missing.

Royal Meath militia.—15 rank and file killed, 9 rank and file wounded, 10 rank and file missing.

Clare.

Clare militia. *—9 rank and file killed ; 8 rank and file wounded ; 1 drummer, 5 rank and file missing.

Donegal militia.—1 rank and file killed, 6 rank and file, missing,

Dublin county militia.—1 serjeant, 2 drummers, 9 rank and file, killed ; 14 rank and file, wounded ; 1 drummer, 5 rank and file, missing.

RETURN

Of Ordnance, Stores, &c. taken from the Rebels in the action of the 5th of June, 1798.

1 5½ inch howitzer on a ship carriage—1 brass 6 pounder tied on a dray—1 Iron 4 pounder on a ship carriage—1 Iron 3 pounder ditto—1 Iron 2 pounder ditto—14 Swivels variously mounted.—Total 19.

14 shot of different sizes, a quantity of muskets and other fire-arms, which were mostly destroyed, and an immensity of pikes, which were broken as soon as taken, also a variety of standards and colours.

M 2

It

* Mr. ALEXANDER supposes that there are two regiments of CLARE militia—See his Narrative published by JONES—page 87.

It was so late when the action was over, that the dead could not be buried. The next morning the town presented an hideous scene: it lay in ruins—no such thing as walking without climbing over the slain. The weather being excessive warm, and the unfortunate wretches in such a perspiration when killed, that, when they were dragging them to interment, the stench was intolerable: being so very filthy in themselves, they looked horrible; their countenances also were writhed in a thousand ugly forms; and as many of them died drunk and in wroth, they had a frightful appearance. There were thrown into one gravel-pit, nearly one thousand of those unfortunate men. The survivors fled to Carrig-burne.

On searching the pockets of some of the slain, the following oath was found in them:

“I, A. B. do solemnly swear by our Lord
 “Jesus Christ, who suffered for us on the
 “cross, and by the Blessed Virgin Mary, that
 “I will burn, destroy, and murder, all here-
 “tics, up to my knees in blood.—So help me
 „ God.”

On

On the morning of the action at Ross, between the hours of five and six o'clock, one of the rebels that had fled from the battle, came galloping to Scollabogue-house, where 300 rebels were guarding the poor Protestants, which had been made prisoners. When he came within hearing, he shouted, "destroy the prisoners! destroy the prisoners! our friends are all cut off at Ross!" John Murphy, who was captain of the rebel guard, told him they should not, without written orders from the general. About an hour after another messenger arrived, proclaiming, "our friends are all destroyed, murder all the prisoners." Murphy made him the same answer. About ten o'clock a third express arrived, running on foot, crying, "the priest has sent orders to put all the prisoners to death."

Immediately the rebel guard stripped off their coats, and prepared for murdering the prisoners, as deliberately as if going to their daily employment. After saying their usual prayers, crossing and blessing themselves, they divided in two divisions: one party to massa-

are those in the dwelling-house, the other, those that were confined in the barn. They hauled out 37 from the dwelling-house, and were shooting them, while the other division surrounded the barn in the most outrageous manner, placed ladders against the walls to stand on and set it on fire all round about. The poor Protestants within, with the most lamentable cries, entreated for mercy, and pressing forward to the back-door, caught hold of it, endeavouring to force their way out. The rebels however, crowding to that door, stabbed, cut, and mangled their hands in such a dreadful manner, that for some time they were prevented. At length the weight of the people behind, pressing upon their mangled friends in the front, made the door give way; but the merciless rebels, as the poor Protestants rushed out, thrust them in again with their pikes, while others were busy in tying bundles of straw, and forcing them into the barn to increase the fire and the pains of those innocent sufferers. During this horrid scene, some of the rebels were loading and firing in upon them, while others

were

were wantonly piercing their burning bodies through with their pikes. This was a mercy, though not intended as such, as it put a speedy period to their miseries; or, if it was so intended, it only confirms the language of Scripture,—“the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.”

There was a woman in the barn, who had been wife to one of the North Cork militia, that was killed at Oulard-hill, she finding no way to escape the flames, thought she would, if possible, save her child. Accordingly she wrapt her cloak about the infant, and threw it out of the barn; but one of the wretched pike-men, thrust his pike through the helpless babe, and, giving a great shout, cried “d—n you, you little heretic, get in there!” and instantly flung it into the fire. Another child, about two years old, whose parents had been either shot or burned, crept unperceived under the corner of the door, and lay outside the house, along the wall; when the confusion had in some degree abated, the child was discovered—another rebel thrusting it thro’ the
child

child gave a violent shriek, and expired in dreadful convulsions. After they had finished their bloody business at the barn, they hastened to the dwelling-house to make the tragedy more compleat. Dead bodies were already strewed round the lawn before the hall-door; others were on their knees crying for mercy, but in vain: humanity had fled the place, and mercy was not known. Of 222 prisoners, 37 were shot, 184 burned to death, and only one (whose name was Lett) suffered to live. Among those unhappy victims, were 20 women and children.

The following list contains the names of many who suffered at Scollabogue; the remainder I have not been able to find out:

Box, Joshua *	Cruise, David *
Box, James *	Cruise, George
Byron, Edward	Carew, George *
Boyce, George *	Cooke, Robert
Bassit, Walter *	Davis, Richard
Brophy, John *	Dobbyn, Henry
Crumpton, Samuel	Dobbyn, James
Chamley, John	Dobbyn, William
Caroline, James *	Dobbyn, Patrick
	Dobbyn,

Dobbyn, Patrick	Neil, Daniel†
Dobbyn, Patrick	Power, James *
Dalton, John	Power, James
Duffield, James *	Power, Thomas*
Duffield, John *	Power, Oliver
Daly, Sarah	Pierſon, John*
Daly, William	Preſley, James*
Daly, James	Preſley, Anne*
English, John	Pyne, William
Eakins, James	Pendergaſt, Pat.†
Eakins, John	Reel, William *
Field, Owen	Rourke, Henry
Frannin, William	Reſtrick, Edward
Gray, Andrew	Rillagh, Edward
Gray, William	Ryan, William†
Hannard, Joſhua	Ryan, Mary†
Hannard, Mary	Ryan, Elinor†
Hurley, Edward	Slye, Edward
Johnſon, William†	Simmons, Samuel
Kelly, Thomas *	Simmons, William
Lewis, Richard *	Smyth, George*
Monk, Edmond	Shee, Thomas†
Monk, Francis	Tweedy, John*
Miller, Robert *	Trimble, John
Neil, William†	Thomas, Anne

Usher, Mary

Williams, Margaret

Wade, James

Younge, Elizabeth

Wilcock, John

N. B. On Saturday the 9th of June there were 184 skeletons cleared out of the barn, thrown into a ditch near the place, and slightly covered with clay.

Amongst the foregoing, those marked thus (†) were Romanists. Thomas Shee and Patrick Pendergast were servants, who would not consent to the massacre of their Protestant masters, for which they were put into the barn, and suffered with them.—William Ryan had a daughter, who, for some time back, was a favorite with a gentleman in Duncannon: the rebels fought for her, supposing she would communicate every matter she could learn of their affairs to this gentleman; but not finding her, they all agreed her sister Elinor would be equally dangerous to their cause; they therefore marched her off to Scollabogue. Her father shortly after followed, to entreat the rebels to liberate her; they would not listen to him, but thrust him

into

into the barn; his wife, a poor old woman being uneasy at the long delay of her husband and daughter, followed them; they put her also into the barn, where they all perished together.—William Johnson was a very old man, and made out a livelihood by travelling about playing the bag-pipes, but unfortunately, among other tunes he was amusing the rebels with, unthinkingly played the popular one of “Croppies lie down;” for which he was put into the barn and suffered. William Neil was a native of Camolin, in the county Wexford, and by trade a tailor; a few days prior to the breaking out of the rebellion, he went accompanied by his son Daniel, to see another son of his, who was employed as a tailor in the garri-son of Duncannon. On their return home, they were taken by the rebels, and having major general Fawcett’s pass in their pockets, they were shut up in the barn, and both perished. William and James Daly were very young lads, and sons to Sarah Daly, but their being Protestants was the only charge alledged against them.

The undernamed persons with 16 more, were shot in the front of Scollabogue dwelling-house, during the time the barn was in flames; all men of respectability.

Bell, Thomas *

Boyce, Samuel, *

Cottom, Samuel

Cottom, John

Eakins, William

Gifford, Milward

Hornick, Philip

Jones, Samuel

Jones, John

Moran, John

M' Donald Thomas

Presly, David *

Parflow, Thomas

Parflow, John

Reason, Henry

Sleator, Thomas

Thornton, Edward

Turner, Samuel,

Vaughan, Miles *

Whitney, John

Whitney, Thomas

Those persons with a star thus (*) after their names, throughout the whole, were brought from the village of Tintern to Scollabogue, in one drove, some of whom were very old, and scarcely able to walk; the distance between both places being about eight miles.

There were many persons concerned in shooting the above unfortunate men, and each

each vied with the other who should put the greatest number to death. Amongst those sanguinary heroes, stand most noted the names of Fardy, Sinnott, Redmond, and Miskella, who trampled on the wounded bodies, and behaved otherwise so bloody, as to obtain for themselves the title of the "true born Romans." Fardy was since hanged at Scollabogue for various murders.*

After ending this horrid massacre, they marched (exulting in their diabolical achievements) towards New-Ross; but the destroying angel had gone before them, and miserably defeated that huge army in which they trusted, as has been related.

As they proceeded to reinforce their brother rebels, they met multitudes of the wounded returning; some crawling along as well as they could, others on horses and on cars; they were shot through different parts of the body; some with broken arms, others with broken legs and thighs. Going on further they met the remnant of the main body retreating in the greatest confusion, hurry and noise, bringing

* See JONES'S Narrative—page 296.

bringing with them cars full of the dead and wounded. They took their station on Carrigburne that night, several stole home and never joined them more; particularly those of Barony Forth, who, tho' a race of cowards, were cruel in the extreme. The wounded were taken to Fookes's mill, where they had several doctors taking care of them, but notwithstanding all their attention numbers died. They had 13 milch cows grazing on Long-greague, the demesne of Mr. Sutton, for their use, and they converted six houses into hospitals.

The next morning Bagnel Harvey was in the greatest anguish of mind, when he beheld Scollabogue house, especially the barn where the Protestants were in every attitude. Being so throng, several were standing up against the walls, others lay in heaps in each others arms, among the ashes of the timber of the house; their bodies looked frightful, being burned to a cinder. He turned from the scene with horror, wrung his hands; told them, "There were
"as innocent people burned there as ever were
"born, and their conquests for liberty were

" at

"an end." Seeing the sanguinary mind they possessed, he was determined to put a stop to it, as far as in his power lay, and that day wrote the following proclamation, had it printed, and sent many copies to Vinegar-hill, Wexford and Gorey, and distributed them through the country.

At a meeting of the General and several Officers of the United Army of the county of Wexford, the following Resolutions have been agreed upon :

"RESOLVED, that the commander-in-chief shall send guards to certain baronies, for the purpose of bringing in all those they shall find lurking and delaying at home or elsewhere; and if any resistance be given to those guards so to be sent by the commanding officer's orders, it is desired and ordered that such persons so giving resistance, shall be liable to be put to death by the guards, who are to bear a commission for that purpose; and all such persons so to be found loitering and delaying at home, when brought in by

"the

the guards, shall be tried by a court-martial, appointed and chosen from amongst the commanders of all the different corps, and not to depart therefrom under pain of death, unless authorized to quit by written orders from the commander-in-chief for that purpose.

“ It is also ordered, that a guard shall be kept at the rear of the different armies, with orders to shoot all persons who shall fly or desert from any engagement; and these orders to be taken notice of by all officers commanding such engagements.

“ All men refusing to obey their superior officers, to be tried by a court-martial, and punished according to their sentence.

“ It is also ordered, that all men who shall attempt to leave their respective quarters when they have been halted by the commander-in-chief, shall suffer death, unless they shall have leave from their officers for so doing.

“ It is also ordered by the commander-in-chief, that all persons who shall have stolen or taken away any horses, shall immediately bring in such horses to the camp at headquarters;

*quarters; otherwise, any horse that shall be seen or found in the possession of any person to whom he does not belong, shall, on being convicted thereof, suffer death; * and any person or persons, who shall take upon them to kill or murder any person or persons, burn any house, or commit any plunder, without special written orders from the commander-in-chief, shall suffer death.

“By order of

“B. B. HARVEY, *Commander-in-chief.*

“FRANCIS BRIEN, *Sec. & Adj.*”

Head Quarters,
Carrig-burne Camp,
June 6th, 1798.

All this day, Harvey was in the greatest distress of mind, and could not avoid shewing his dislike to the inhumanity of the priests, which they however soon repented, by collecting their different flocks, and pointing out to them the impropriety of having a heretic for their commander; which so prejudiced them against him, that he was now in a critical situation. On the 7th of June, the whole camp removed from Carrig-burne to Slieve-quilter, within

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five

* Rather the *thief* was to have been put to death.

five miles of New-Ross. Here priest Roche, of Poulpearsey, formerly of Gorey, had influence enough, to get Harvey deposed of his generalship, and himself elected commander in chief. Indeed such was Harvey's conduct, in consequence of the cruelties inflicted on the prisoners, that the priests were apprehensive if they did not exert themselves, they would lose their consequence among the people; and having gained their wish in removing Harvey from the chief command, they strenuously exhorted them to persevere in their glorious work. Among those ecclesiastics who appeared most zealous, was priest Murphy of Bannow; who in a speech after the battle of Ross, delivered himself as follows:

"Brethren, you see you are victorious every where; that the balls of the heretics fly about you without hurting you; that few of you have fallen whilst thousands of the heretics are dead; and the few that have fallen, was from deviating from our cause, and want of faith; that this visibly is the work of God, who is determined, that the heretics who have reigned upwards of one hundred years, should now be extirpated,
"and

"and the true Catholic religion be established."* This priest frequently preached this doctrine to them.

Their new commander being determined to shine in a conspicuous manner, collected several bullets, which, he assured them he had caught in the battle of Ross, and distributed several to his brethren, when in the heat of action, who loaded their pieces with them; and that this was what no other army could boast of. He would also he said, give them such gospels to hang about their necks, as would make the person who wore it, proof against all the power of heretical artillery; but that notwithstanding their extraordinary utility to the Irish army, they would be of no avail unless they were purchased. The price to the better sort of people, was half a crown; but as the poorer sort were so zealous in their glorious cause, he would only ask from them sixpence a piece. Thousands of them were made, which were speedily sent round the country.

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* See Grandy's affidavit, in Jones's History of the Irish Rebellion—page 294.

An exact Copy of Priest Roche's *Protection*,
or *Gospel !!!*

IN THE
NAME OF GOD,
AND OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN,
A M E N.

"No gun, pistol, Sword, or any other of-
"fensive weapon, can hurt or any way injure
"the person who has this paper in *his* pos-
"session; and it is earnestly recommended to
"all women with child, to carry it, as it will
"be found an infallible preservation against
"the fatality of child-bed."

No. 7526. "ROCHE."

One of those gospels was taken from off the
neck off John Hay, a rebel chief, who was
executed at Wexford, a few days after it was
retaken by the king's army—they were gene-
rally sewed to a brown coloured tape.

While the rebels remained on Carrig-burne
hill, they committed several outrages on the
persons and property of the surrounding in-
habitants, particularly on a respectable old
gentleman,

gentleman, Francis Glascott, of Pill-town, Esq.—This gentleman and Mr. Harvey, prior to the commencement of the rebellion, were on very intimate terms; on which Mr. Glascott, (who was totally ignorant of Harvey's being deposed of his command in the rebel army) wrote to him requesting he would send him a protection. Mr. Harvey returned him the following answer:

"DEAR SIR,

"I received your letter, but what to do for you I know not; I from my heart wish to protect all property, I can scarce protect myself, and indeed my situation is much to be pitied and distressing to myself. I took my present situation in hopes of doing good, and preventing mischief, my trust is in providence. I acted always an honest disinterested part, and had the advice I gave sometime since been taken, the present mischief could never have arisen. If I can retire to a private station again, I will immediately. Mr. Tottenham's refusing to speak to the gentleman I sent

"into

"into Ross, who was madly shot by the soldiers, was very unfortunate; it has set the people mad with rage, and there is no restraining them. The person I sent in had private instructions to propose a reconciliation, but God knows where this business will end, but end how it may, the good men of both parties will be inevitably ruined.

"I am with respect,

"Dear Sir,

"Yours, &c. &c. &c.

"B. B. HARVEY."

Slieve-quilter,
June 9th, 1798. }

Thus we may see Mr. Harvey was heartily tired of his situation. While the rebels remained on this hill, a party of them attacked his Majesty's gun boat, the *Louisa*, at Fisher's-town, on her way with dispatches from Waterford to Ross and killed Mr. Robert Hyland, the master of the boat, and three of the failors; and probably would have taken her, had not another bore up to her assistance, which enabled her to escape. They fired many shots at them with their great gun, by which
a few

a few cattle only were killed. On the 10th of June, the main body of the rebels left this, and encamped that evening on Lacken-hill within 2 miles of Ross, leaving a strong guard at Slieve-quilter. Here we shall leave them, and take a view of their conduct in Wexford, Vinegar-hill and Gorey.

Wexford being the grand seat of rebellion, I shall begin here. No sooner was Wexford in the hands of the rebels, than they began to reform the state. The grand or *national committee* was instantly formed, and also the *council of Five-hundred* and *council of Elders*, and the dwelling of Mr. John Callimore, a respectable merchant, was converted into a Senate-house.

All the Protestants around the country, who did not escape when the army retreated, were arrested and thrown into the goal. The priests and friars in town were busily employed in baptizing the Protestant women, and such of the men as were admitted into the rebel ranks. They then gave them passes and protections, of which the following is a copy, given by Father John Broe, a friar, to a person whom he had baptized.

“ I hereby

"I hereby certify that A. B. of C—in the
 "parish of D—has done his duty, and proved
 "himself a Catholic."

"F. JOHN BROE."

Wexford, June 21st, 1798.

This very priest was constantly in the goal baptizing; and after the battle of Ross, made it his business to walk round the town of Wexford, seeking persons sufficient to carry a pike, and forcing them to repair to camp; this is an undoubted fact. Baptizing the Heretics, was not confined to Wexford, it was common on Vinegar-hill, and through all the camps in the county. It was no more than a temporary protection while they were doubtful of their cause; for it is well known that even their proselytes would have been put to death if they had prevailed. The following protection was given by Bryan Murphy, * parish priest of Taghmon:

"Mr.

* There were 6 priests of the name of Murphy, in the county of Wexford, more or less concerned in the rebellion: Eadmus, Edward, James, Bryan, John and Michael.

"Mr. A.—B.—has complied with every condition required of him, and therefore is to be stopped by no man."

"Rev. BRYAN MURPHY."

"June 4th, 1798."

In the barony of Forth, all the Protestants were ordered to the chapels to be baptized. Father Mun Stafford, parish priest of the Lady's island, usually had a crowded congregation. Lady's island is greatly celebrated for its ancient sanctity, by all of the popish persuasion in the kingdom; therefore they come on pilgrimage to it from all parts to do penance, which consists in going round the island three times, and repeating their prayers in the church-yard.

No sooner had the rebel senate sat, than they were determined on the destruction of such as did not favour their cause. There was one Murphy, a Roman-catholic, who had been gardener to Mr. Edwards of Ballyhire, taken prisoner, and brought to Wexford; this man formerly witnessed against one Dixon a priest, who was a notorious traitor,

tor, and who had been sentenced to transportation, for administering the United oath to several persons, before the rebellion broke out. This unfortunate man, was sentenced to be shot, on Sunday the third of June, and such was their detestation of him, that in order to encrease the ignominy of his death, they had him executed by Protestants, who were prisoners also in the goal. Middleton Robson, a gauger; Robert Pigott, a surveyor of excise, and Richard Julian, a gauger, were the persons appointed to execute the sentence. After celebrating mass and receiving their directions, Thomas Dixon, a near relation to the priest, was appointed to conduct this awful business. He was the most barbarous man to defenceless men, that ever existed, but a greater coward in battle could not be. He had the prisoner brought to the Bull-ring, and Mr. Robson being ordered to fire, the unfortunate man fell dead; when Dixon ran and thrust his sword in the back of his neck, then drawing it forth, held it up to the view of the mob, desiring them to "Behold the blood of a traitor." At this time John Edwards, a Protestant, and land-

land-steward to the above Mr. Edwards, was brought into the crowd to be murdered, but Dixon to shew his hatred to Murphy, "declared upon his honour no other man should suffer that day." Robson, Pigott, and Julian were compelled to drag the lifeless body to the quay and throw it into the river. Robson and Edwards were massacred on Wexford-bridge the 20th of the same month, but the other two escaped.

Another man of the name of Murphy, a Papist, who had given information against some United Irishmen, was brought into town on Friday the 15th of June, and put into the condemned cell, where priest Broe visited him. Mr. Pigott, on his coming into goal, being apprehensive he should be obliged to shoot him, sent for William Kearney, who superintended the prison, told him his fears, and requested he would acquaint the committee, that he would not be executioner for any description of men—desiring to be tried for any charge they had against him, as he would rather suffer death, than live on such terms. Whereupon Jonas Gurley, a hatter, Kinnieth

P. 2

Matthews,

Matthews, toll-gatherer on the bridge, and Charles Jackson, carver and gilder, three Protestants, and prisoners, were ordered to execute him. * On monday the 18th of June, he was led out for execution, and in the presence of multitudes of unfeeling rebels, suffered on the other side of the bridge. The prisoners were remanded back to prison, and on the 20th of June, Gurley and Matthews were massacred, the former on the bridge, being tortured with pikes, and the latter in the goal-yard. Jackson fortunately escaped.

LIBERTY was written in large letters on most doors in Wexford, and many of the windows adorned with green branches. Every evening also, crowds flocked round the prison door, demanding entrance, that they might murder the Protestants, who they said, eat up all the provisions in town. William Kearney however behaved tolerable to the prisoners; Patrick Furlong also, who was superintendant at the market-house, where were 48 prisoners, tho' he often reproached them for their heretical principles, gave them enough of potatoes,

* See JONES's edition of the *Wexford Cruelties*—page 29.

tatoes, brown bread, and putrified meat. The goal and market-house not being sufficient, the barrack also was converted into a prison; for the number of male Protestants destined for the slaughter, amounted to 260! Matthew Kenghe was appointed governor of Wexford.

It has been observed in the beginning of this history, that there was no military force in this county, save part of the North Cork militia, whose head quarters was Wexford. Lord Kingsborough, who was colonel of the regiment, being in Dublin when the rebellion broke out, hastened to join them, taking with him a reinforcement of the Dunbarton fencible infantry, with two battalion guns. On their coming to Bray, they were informed that the rebels were in force at Newtown-Mount-Kennedy, in the county of Wicklow; they accordingly marched on there to attack them, which they did on the 30th of May, and defeated them, leaving a number killed on the field. Lord Kingsborough proceeded to Wicklow, and hearing there, that the communication from that to Wexford was totally stoped, he

he determined to wait for the Dunbarton fencibles, and send an express by sea to Wexford, to order the garrison to hold out, and that he, with a strong reinforcement, would march to their assistance as speedily as possible. Mr. Woodroffe, a Revenue officer, and a few other chosen men were ordered on this expedition, and embarked immediately. On coming into the harbour of Wexford, to their astonishment, they perceived the rebel flags flying in all parts of the town, it being in possession of the insurgents. The rebels manned one of their cruizers, and pursued Mr. Woodroffe and his companions, till they came in sight of the Welsh coast, when they gave over the pursuit. Mr. Woodroffe and his companions with a great deal of trouble and fatigue got into Wicklow the next morning: Lord Kingsborough came to Arklow, and not thinking the rebels had possession of Wexford, took a fishing-boat there, and sailing towards Wexford, was met by the cruizer that pursued Mr. Woodroffe, and taken prisoner. He was landed in Wexford, and so little did the rebels respect his rank,

rank, that they confined him in a common dram-shop, where he was daily exposed to repeated insults from the rabble.

On Sunday the 10th of June, the following proclamation, which was printed the day before, was read from the altar, and a most lively exhortation was delivered by Father Roche, chaplain to bishop Caulfield, in which he told the pike-men, that they would be all murdered if they did not succeed, desiring them at the same time to make no more profelytes, as they could not be sincere.

PROCLAMATION,

OF THE PEOPLE OF THE
COUNTY OF WEXFORD.

“WHEREAS, it stands manifestly notorious, that James Boyd, Hawtry White, Hunter Gowan, and Archibald Hamilton Jacob, late magistrates of this county, have committed the most horrid acts of cruelty, violence and oppression, against our peaceable and well affected country-men: Now we the People, associated

"ciated and united for the purpose of procuring our just rights, and being determined to protect the persons and properties of those of all religious persuasions who have not oppressed us, and who are willing with heart and hand to join our glorious cause, as well as to shew our marked disapprobation and horror of the crimes of the above delinquents, do call on our countrymen at large, to use every exertion in their power to apprehend the bodies of the aforesaid James Boyd, &c. &c. &c. and to secure and convey them to the goal of Wexford, to be brought before the *Tribunal* of the *People*."

"Done at Wexford, this 9th day of June, 1798."

"GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE."

The persons mentioned in this proclamation, were gentlemen of respectable characters, and distinguished loyalty, who had apprehended several United Irishmen, and lodged them in the county goal some time before the rebellion broke out, and for which they received the public thanks of the county.

The

The rebels now made no secret of their United Oaths. The following were printed by order of the council, for directing the affairs of the people of the county of Wexford.

Oaths to be taken by the United Army in the most public and solemn manner.

TEST OATH.

“I, A.—B.— do voluntarily declare, that I will persevere in endeavouring to form a brotherhood of affection among Irishmen of every religious persuasion; and that I will also persevere in my endeavours to obtain an equal, full and adequate representation of all the people of Ireland. I do further declare that neither hopes, fears, rewards, or punishments, shall ever induce me directly, or indirectly, to inform on, or give evidence against any member or members of this or similar societies, for any act or expression of theirs, done or made collectively or individually, in or out of this society, in pursuance of the spirit of this obligation.”

“So help me God.”

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PRIVATES

PRIVATES OATH.

" I, A.—B.—do solemnly and sincerely swear, and take God and his only Son our Lord Jesus Christ to witness, that I will at all times be obedient to the commands of my officers ; that I am ready to lay down my life for the good of my country ; that I have an aversion to plunder, and to the spilling of innocent blood ; that I will fight courageously in the field, and have mercy where it can be given ; that I will avoid drunkenness, as tending to disorder and ruin ; that I will endeavour to make as many friends and as few enemies as possible ; that above all I detest cowardice, and that I will look upon him as an enemy, who will stand back in the time of battle."

" So help me God."

OFFICERS OATH.

" In the awful Presence of God, who knows the hearts and thoughts of all men, and calling my country to witness, I, A.—B.—officer in the——do solemnly swear, that I do not consider my life my own, when my country demands it ; that I consider the present moment

" calls

" calls for a proof of the sincerity of that sentiment, and I am ready and desirous to stand the test, and do aver, that I am determined to die or lead to victory; and that all my actions shall be directed to the prosperity of the common cause, uninfluenced by any inferior motive; and I further declare my utter aversion to all alarmists, union-breakers, and cowards, and my respect and obedience to the commands of my superior officers."

" So help me God.

" *Done at the Council-chamber in Wexford,*

" *June the 14th, 1798.*

" *By order of the Council,*

" B. B. HARVEY, *President.*

" NICHOLAS GRAY, *Secretary.*"

It appears by the above publication, that Mr. Harvey sat as president, after he was deposed of his command.

There was another oath taken by the Papists, which the disaffected Protestants and Presbyterians, knew nothing of; this was called the *Black Test*, and was as follows;

" Every loyal Irish Protestant Heretic, I shall murder, and this I swear."

Such as bound themselves under this oath, had a pass-word, by which they knew each other any where they should meet. This pass-word was the initials of the several words in the oath, and no individual knew this but such as were sworn. "*Elipbismatis*," was the pass-word.

At Gorey the rebels had a surprising large camp, from whence they made various excursions through the country in search of Protestants, whom on discovery, they forced from their homes, and confined in the assembly-room over the market-house. In this religious hunt, there was no respect paid to old age: among many of this description were William Bryan of Coolook, near Ballycanow, aged 70, and William Atkinson, of Curraclough, near Wexford, aged 80. Such of the Protestants as could escape, availed themselves of the opportunity, and fled from various parts to the fortified towns. Arklow gave shelter to hundreds of these poor refugees, and the town of Wicklow to no less than one thousand and sixty! Many who could not leave their families

lies were in a pitiable situation; day after day were the men torn from the arms of their beloved wives and children, or distracted mothers and sisters, and murdered before them. The widow Carley, near Castle-bridge, and the widow Grindly, near Kilmuck-bridge, are woeful witnesses of this melancholy truth.

While the camp continued at Gorey, all manner of abominations were committed in it; and as it swarmed with women of ill-fame, they set no bounds to their lewdness; and yet, such was the blindness of their minds, as to imagine, that the extraordinary fine weather which continued so long, was sent by the Almighty to favour their cause; they would say, "God is on our side, the heretics have had do-
"minion long enough, but our time is now
"come." It was also their opinion, that no rain would fall, until they had finally conquered. Alas! what ignorance and delusion, follow profaneness and superstition.

Tho' they were expert at the pike, which in general was from 9 to 14 feet long, they scarcely knew any thing of the musquet;
often

often when they cocked their pieces, they knew not how to uncock them again. They would labour to push down the flint, and if it did not yield, would shoulder their musquet and march with it in that dangerous situation; and often on their marches, has their great ignorance of military exercise, nearly proved fatal to themselves. It has been known likewise, that in battle they have been so unskilful, or inattentive, as when loading, to bite the ball end of the cartridge.—Such was the wretched crew that formed the camp at Gorey.

At length they began to think they were too long inactive, and knowing, that could they force Arklow, it would open a communication with the county of Wicklow and Kildare rebels, and thereby prepare the way for an immediate attack upon Dublin, resolved to make an attempt; but fearing they had not sufficient strength, messengers were sent to Wexford and Vinegar-hill, for reinforcements, while couriers were sent round the country, ordering all persons to repair to camp without delay.

On

On the 8th of June, the rebels sent a picquet to Coolgreny, where they saw a party of the army reconnoitring; they returned immediately to Gorey, with information, that a large body of the kings troops were on their march towards the town. In consequence of this, the prisoners (48 in number) were ordered up to camp, to be massacred; but providentially for them, Bagnel Harvey's proclamation from Carrig-burne arrived, which for that time frustrated their bloody designs. They were accordingly remanded back to prison. Advices having been received in the evening, that Arklow was very weak with regard to military, it was deemed the most prudent plan to attack it the following day.

Early the next morning (June the 9th) the camp was crowded from every part of the country, and masses were celebrated by the priests. After this ceremony, some of the rebels, irritated at not being permitted to massacre the prisoners, melted a great quantity of pitch, and besmearing the inside of caps made of coarse linen and brown paper, put them
on

on almost all the prisoners' heads. About 12 o'clock they marched for Arklow, 34,000 strong ! with three pieces of cannon, under the command of Anthony Perry ; Esmond Kyan being captain of the artillery. When they had arrived within two miles of Arklow, they were ordered to halt by John Hay, one of their captains, and having placed their gun-men in the front, and the pike-men to charge in the rear, they were ordered to proceed ; but they evinced the most disorderly disposition imaginable ; for their officers, John Hay, Esmond Kyan, Dick Monk, Thomas Dixon, William and Garret Byrne, were obliged to drive them along before them, and in this manner they proceeded towards Arklow.

Had the rebels made their appearance two days before, in all probability they would have carried the town ; but fortunately reinforcements arrived from Dublin, which much strengthened it, and quieted the fears of the inhabitants. The garrison consisted of detachments of the 5th and 9th dragoon guards, Ancient British fencible cavalry, a small detachment of the Royal Irish artillery, Durham fencible

cible infantry, detachment of the Dumbarton fencible infantry, Cavan battalion, detachments of the Armagh, Antrim, North Cork, and Londonderry militia; also North and South Arklow cavalry, Camolin cavalry, Gorey cavalry, Coolgreeny and Castletown cavalry, and a number of loyalists in coloured clothes, making in the whole about 1500 men. Major-general Needham being commander-in-chief of the garrison.

About 2 o'clock advice was received, that the enemy were approaching the town; this was so little credited, that the garrison which had been ordered under arms, was just going to be dismissed, when a dragoon came galloping into the town with intelligence from captain Elliot of the Antrim militia, that the rebels were at hand. Immediately the drums beat to arms, the trumpets sounded, and the troops flew to their different stations, and preparations were made to receive the enemy.

Major general Needham drew up his forces in a most judicious manner. The Cavan battalion with some yeomen infantry, under the

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command

command of colonel Maxwel, extended a line from the center of the town to the Fishery; on the left was the sea. On the right the Durham fencibles were drawn in front of their encampment, with two field-pieces; detachments of the Armagh and others were placed on the right of the Durham, at the high road; and the Antrim with some other detachments, and all the loyalists in coloured clothes, were stationed in the barrack. The dragoons, Ancient Britons, and yeomenry corps, were stationed beyond the bridge, on the Dublin road.

When the rebels advanced to the Charter-school, (capt. Elliot having retreated into town) Esmond Kyan drew the cannon to the right, on an eminence that commands the town. The army being drawn up as before described, the Dumbarton fencibles were ordered out in front of the Armagh, to line the ditches on each side of the road, where the rebels were advancing. Thus was the army situated when the rebels made their appearance; with their green flags flying: they fired on the Dumbartons,

bartons, which was briskly returned; when they had exchanged about a dozen rounds, the Dumbartons received orders to retreat, and join the Armagh, which was done with seeming confusion. About this time the rebels set fire to the town in many places, in order to annoy the army with the smoak, but the Almighty caused the wind to shift, so that they were confounded in their own devices. On the retreat being ordered, the rebels pursued with loud huzzaing, and one of their officers waving his hat, called out, "my boys come on, the town is our own," but he suddenly found himself surrounded by soldiers, his horse was shot, and himself wounded, on which he fell as tho' slain; when in a little time curiosity constraining him to look about, he was perceived, and instantly shot dead. The rebels pressed after him, but on receiving a dreadful fire of musquetry and grape shot, they fell back a considerable distance. They then extended in a long line in front of the Durham's, void of military discipline, in order to turn the left flank; but the soldiers keeping up an incessant fire, they could not put their design

into execution. Some of the rebel musqueteers getting under the shelter of the ditches, annoyed the army very much, while their field-pieces played briskly on the town, but serjeant Shepherd, of the Royal Irish artillery, (who was taken prisoner at the Three Rocks) being obliged to manage the cannon, elevated them so high, that the balls went over it; and once having loaded with grape, he turned the gun a little on one side, and swept away above 30 of the rebels. Dick Monk observing this transaction, galloped up, and would have killed him, had not Esmond Kyan resolutely interposed, insisting it was the army cannon that did the execution. Kyan having ordered serjeant Shepherd to load with round shot, and demolish the town; rode elsewhere; but Shepherd watching his opportunity loaded again with grape knowing it could do no injury; and this he did as fast as possible during Kyan's absence, that he might waste the ammunition. Dick Monk and John Hay, being fully convinced all was not right, went to watch the execution from their cannon, and found he was not favouring
 their

their cause while loading with grape, obliged him to load with round shot, but the balls flew a mile beyond the town, on which Kyan leveled the cannon himself, and one of them in such direction, that the ball smashed the carriage of one of the Durham guns to shivers, and another struck the top of the inn.

Another column of the rebels attempted to gain the lower end of the town by the beach, but here they met with a desperate charge from the cavalry, headed by the brave colonel Sir Watkin Wynne. They then proceeded in great force to a passage that led to the center of the town, but it being well guarded by only a serjeant and 12 men, they were defeated in this manœuvre also. Some of them attempted to ford the river, but there inevitable death awaited them.

Priest Murphy, of Ballycanow, stopped in Coolgreney : on going towards Arklow, he met many of the rebels retreating ; he drove them before him to the battle again, telling them he would beat them with the dust of the road. He proceeded, and on his advancing with a large

large party, in order to take a cannon stationed near the barrack, his bowels were torn out with cannister shot. The rebels that followed him fled from that quarter, swearing the *priest himself was down!** The heat and burthen

* The following articles of Popish faith were found in the pocket of Priest Murphy, who was killed at the battle of Arklow. §

1, When we assemble we cross ourselves, saying, "We acknowledge these our articles in the presence of Christ's Vicar, our Lord God the Pope, and in the presence of the holy Primates, Bishops, Monks, Friars and Priests."

2d, We acknowledge they can make *Vice* Virtue, and *Virtue* Vice, according to their pleasure. Falling flat on their faces, they proceed in this manner speaking to the Host, and saying, "Holy, glorious, and admirable Host, we acknowledge it according to our good father the pope, we must all fall down before the great effigy of our Lord God Almighty."

3d, We acknowledge the supremacy of the holy father the Lord God the Pope, and that he is Peter's successor in the chair.

4th, We acknowledge that Peter has the keys of Heaven, and that he will receive those only who acknowledge his supremacy.

5th, We are bound to believe there can be no salvation out of our holy church.

6th, We are bound to believe, that the late holy massacre was lawful, and justly put into execution against Protestants, and that we should continue the same as long as we can do it with safety to ourselves.

7th,

§ Those articles have also appeared in the last edition of VERIDICUS.

then of the action, fell on colonel Skerrit, of the Durham; whose valiant conduct this day was

7th, We are bound to curse, ring the bells, and put out the candles four times in each year on Heretics.

8th, We are bound to believe that Heretics can never be saved, unless they partake of that holy sacrament, Extreme Unction.

9th, We are bound to believe, that those who elope from our holy religion, are under the power of the Devil, whom Heretics follow.

10th, No faith is to be kept with Heretics, tho' bound by the most sacred oaths; for says our holy father, they have followed damnation, and Luther and Calvin.

11th, We are not to believe their oaths, for their principles are damnation.

12th, We are bound to drive Heretics out of the land with fire, sword, faggot, and confusion; as our holy father says, if their heresy prevails we are still to become their slaves. Oh! dear father, keep us from that. (Here the holy water is shaken, and they say the *Hail Mary* three times.)

13th, We are bound to absolve without any reward, all those who imbrue their hands in the blood of Heretics.

14th, We are bound to believe that Christ's Vicar, our Lord God the Pope, can absolve all men (Heretics excepted,) and has given the like power to all his inferior Clergy.

15th, We are bound to believe all the articles commanded by our holy church.

16th, We are bound to believe the Virgin Mary has more honour in heaven, than any of the Angels.

17th, We are bound to pray to the holy Angels, that they may pray for us.

18th,

was admirable. Colonel Maxwell of the Cavalry, whose valiant conduct this day, acted in the most spirited and determined manner, as did all the officers and men.

The

18th, We are bound to believe in the holy cross, holy water, holy spittle, holy earth, holy bones, holy people, and beads; and that they are to be used on certain occasions.

19th, We are bound to celebrate the holy mass in latin, having ourselves clothed in a holy vestment and shirt, bearing the holy cross on our shoulders, signifying we are the very Christ.

20th, We are bound to believe every time mass is celebrated there is an expiatory for the living and the dead.

21st, We are bound to believe there are four places of Purgatory, viz. Limbus Infantum, Limbus Patrum, Meadows of Ease, and Purgatory.

22d, We are bound to believe that Christ was three days in Limbus Infantum, where the souls of holy fathers go, till they get a pass with them to the holy Peter.

23d, We are bound to believe, that the souls of children unbaptized, go to the Limbus Infantum, until original sin is well paid away, by the help of holy masses said to them.

24th, We acknowledge the souls of Christians go to Purgatory, and remain there till we pray them out of it, that they may have the power to walk the meadows of Ease with safety, till it pleases holy Peter to open the gates of glory for them, where no Heretic shall ever enter.

25th, We are bound to keep Lent, according to our Clergy's pleasure, and to maintain the work of supererogation.

26th, We are bound to acknowledge the Lake in the North to be holy, called Lough Darragh.

27th, We are bound to pray to no other Saint on that day, only them to whom it is dedicated.

28th,

The engagement continued from four till half past eight, at which time the rebels retreated back to Gorey. The military stood to their arms till four next morning, when they cast up entrenchments round the camp, expecting another attack.

It was dreadful to view the field of battle; men and horses lay dead together; heads and limbs were strewed over the fields. It is thought that not less than 1000 rebels could have fallen that day. Of the army there fell only

28th, We must baptize bells, and consecrate chapels, and no man to enter into the holy office of a priest, only he who is known to be a man after the harlot Joan.

29th, We maintain seven sacraments essential to salvation, viz. Baptism, Ucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.

30th, We maintain we can transubstantiate the bread and wine into the real body and blood of Christ.

31st, We believe that Heretics eat their kind of sacrament to their eternal damnation.

32d, We believe that Christ is every where, but especially in our church.

33d, We maintain we cannot know any thing without being in danger of judgment.

34th, We maintain that Heretics have neither the will of the Prophets nor of Christ.

35th, We acknowledge that the Rosary of Saint Bridget is to be said once a week; and lastly, that our holy church can never err.

only captain Knox of the Castletown cavalry and two of his men in charging the rebels, 1 serjeant, 6 privates of militia killed, and about 20 wounded.

Lord Mount Norris and some of his troop in viewing the scene of action, found the body of the perfidious priest Murphy, who so much deceived him and the country; being exasperated, his Lordship ordered his head to be struck off, and his body to be thrown into a house that was burning, exclaiming, "let his body go where his soul is!" This unhappy man declared to his deluded flock, that he could catch the bullets and ward them off at his pleasure. *

The rebels in their retreat to Gorey were so mad with serjeant Shepherd; that it was with the greatest difficulty Esmond Kyan could save him from falling a sacrifice to their fury. † They arrived in Gorey late in the evening, bearing with them several hundreds of the wounded.

* There were three priests that boasted of this power, John Murphy, Michael Murphy, and Philip Roche.

† Serjeant Shepherd has escaped, and his extraordinary fortitude and services, deserves to be noticed by his country.

wounded. Priest Murphy of Boolavogue met them retreating, and told them he knew they would be defeated, yet they would not take his advice. After this they were more moderate to their prisoners. On Wednesday following, captain Redmond, however nephew to priest Redmond of Ferns, had them tried; those condemned were sent to Wexford goal, but them acquitted were compelled to go to their camp. While the rebels remained in Gorey, they shewed great aversion to the church, by breaking the windows and otherwise injuring it. They had an intolerable hatred to Protestant prayer-books; all they could get, they tore to pieces; even carried the leaves of the church Bible on their pikes, shouting, "Behold the French colours;" also, to compleat their impiety, and their contempt of the established religion, they put two Protestants to death in the aisle. In other parts they made saddles of the Bibles, and so rode about on them! In short they continued exercising every kind of wickedness till the 19th of June, when they marched for Vinegar-hill.

Vinegar-hill being in the vicinity of Enniscorthy, I shall just advert to that battle, before I take notice of the cruelties committed on it.

When the attack became general and the army began to give way, many treacherous inhabitants, who from the preceding day till then, had put up Orange cockades (the distinguished emblems of loyalty,) immediately pulled them down, and taking advantage of the confusion, turned their arms upon the army, and fired on them from houses, lanes, and gateways, in the most advantageous part of the town. There fell however of the rebels about 500; of the army, yeomenry, and volunteers, not more than between 30 and 40.

The rebels being now encamped on Vinegar-hill, and having possession of the town, they planted the Tree of Liberty, shouting, "Vive la Republique, and Erin go Braugh." Here the work of blood began, and continued every day more or less for 25 days; a dreadful specimen of what might be expected from such a government. One day they were so diabolical as to murder all the Protestants they had,

and

and not satisfied herewith sent to Wexford for more, and every day parties ranged the country, dragging forth all they could find, to satiate their thirst for blood. The scarcer they grew, the longer the poor victims were kept in torment. On the 1st of June, a Protestant that escaped, by the interposition of a rebel captain, being in the old wind-mill, the place where the condemned were put, he saw a man sitting on the ground there, with only a piece of ragged blanket covering him—his eyes were picked out of their sockets, his tongue cut out, his head and body swelled to an enormous degree, and covered with ulcers. Not thinking he was alive till the poor sufferer gave a heart-piercing groan, the prisoner was startled, and exclaimed, "Good God! what miserable object is that!"—He was answered by one of the guards, that he was under slow punishment. This was verified on oath. †

It has been remarked, that none of the rebels were so blood-thirsty, as those that were most religious, and constant attendants at the Popish ordinances; the drunken and careless sort had
the

† See also Veridicus.

the greatest share of good nature ; it is a certain truth, that those savages never had so many masses, nor ever prayed so much, as during their month of usurpation, especially on their battle days ; then all the old men, women and children, betook themselves to the *ave marias*, &c. and when parties of two or three hundred would go round the country burning all the Protestant houses, they generally fell on their knees as soon as they set them on fire.

After they had finished murdering the lot or party destined for the day, they were assembled by a crier, thro' the camp and the town, when he proclaimed the following harangue :

“SHELMALIER & SHELBURNE,
to prayers, three paters, and three aves to be offered to God and the blessed Virgin Mary, for our glorious cause ; for the further dispersion, and extirpation of all Heretics ; for our glorious church militant on earth, and triumphant in heaven. Kneel down and kiss the ground, our captain has slain a man.”

A large

A large tub of water was then brought, which one of the priests immediately blessed, ordering the rebels to kneel round about, he with a whisk of heath or broom sprinkled them with the water, repeating the words of the Psalmist over and over, "Thou shalt purge
 " me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Thou
 " shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than
 " snow." *

A Protestant on whose veracity I can depend, furnished me with an account of his captivity on this hill; he was made a prisoner by the rebels on Whitfun-monday. The following is his narrative.

"When I came to the prison door, I was seized by the breast, and thrown in among the rest of the prisoners, where I remained in the deepest sorrow and affliction, believing death inevitable, as I was among the condemned. Seeing a man who had been piked the evening before, with signs of life, (it seems from this he was left for dead) in the prison, his coat being off, his shirt and breeches covered with a cake of blood, and his cheeks full of holes,

" which
 * Psalm, 51. Verse 7.

“wich were made by their abominable pikes ; drawing near him I enquired what happened him ? he told me he had been piked the evening before, and had crept in from among the dead which lay before the door, to avoid the heat of the sun. Looking out of the door, I saw the rebels leading up a prisoner, whom they soon after shot ; looking out of the other door also, * I saw as near as I can judge between 30 and 40 lying dead about three yards distance, some of whom I knew, being in confinement with me, and one of them was my brother-in-law. Shortly after a man coming in under pretence of searching our pockets for arms, robbed us of all we had, and went away. Then came that sanguinary monster, Luke Byrne, of Oulard, who kept a brewery in Enniscorthy, and enquired how many prisoners were condemned ; being told twenty-seven, he answered, “ if any one can vouch for any of the prisoners not being Orange-men, I have no objection they should be discharged,”—no one returned an answer. He then said, “ is there
“ no

* To all Wind-mills there are two doors, one opposite the other.

"no one to speak?"—no answer. He then ordered six guns to be brought to each door, intending to destroy us at once, and not spend the night in watching over us. The guards knowing they would be in danger of killing each other, obtained permission from Byrne to bring us out, and shoot us one by one. We were then ordered to kneel down, and each of us to be brought out in our turn. Three rebels stood at the door with pistols in their hands, and still as the prisoners were brought out and placed on their knees, they were shot and thrown among the dead. Three of them expecting they should escape death, by renouncing the Protestant religion, and turning Papists, called for the priest. John Murphy immediately arrived, and laying his hands on their heads, repeated some prayers in Latin. Scarce were his hands off their heads when one of the executioners, who had a grudge to one of the prisoners, fired at him; the ball entered the unfortunate man's ear and killed him; he was carried off and let fall among the dead. I being the next, was brought to the door; a rebel calling me by my

T

name,

name, caught the attention of one of the captains, whose name-sake I happened to be ; this was fortunate for me, as my life was providentially spared by this circumstance. A man named Thornton, a resident of Wexford, was shot at this instant, but the next man that was brought out, broke through the crowd, and ran about 17 perches, when he was met by a rebel, who with a scythe, severed his head from his body, so that it hung down on his breast ; in an instant several pikes were fastened in him, and I saw him no more. The priest walked away as unconcerned, as if no murder had taken place. Out of the 27 prisoners only three escaped ; viz. Hendrick, who lived near Clondau, William Bennet, who lived near Enniscorthy, and myself."

As I observed before, when the Protestants grew scarce, they kept them the longer in torments before they dispatched them, by scourging them with lashes made of brass wire, and twisted in whip cord ; George Stacy, who received 250 lashes, and a Mr. Whitney, with several others, can witness to the truth of this.

But

But they did not stop here; piking them but not mortally, was frequently done for the purpose of keeping them in misery. Sometimes have they chosen a stone, with one end small and the other large, and putting the small end into the mouth of the expiring victim, would stamp on it with the heel of the shoe, till his jaws were extended to the utmost. This barbarity was inflicted on Henry Hatton, deputy portrieve of Enniscorthy, and many others.

It is said that not less than 400 Protestants were massacred in Enniscorthy, and on Vinegar-hill; the bodies of whom lay unburied several days; and such was the cruelty of the rebels, that they would not suffer their female friends to perform the last act of humanity, nor even look at them, on pain of death; and to increase the horror of this scene, the swine were suffered to prey upon many of them, and several also, through the uncommon heat of the weather, were reduced to such a state of putrefaction, that at length they became offensive to their murderers, who

drew them to the water-side, where they covered many with the sand, and threw others into the river, in which they floated to and fro with the tide, a long time after.

From this fatal hill, these sanguinary wretches, very deliberately went off in plundering parties, and brought with them horses and cars, to convey back the property of their Protestant neighbours. They went to the house of Edward Hawkins, of Ballycoursey, a man well known to be of the most ready and obliging disposition towards the lower order of the people. They first called for something to eat and drink, and after they had satisfied themselves with such as the house afforded, they tore him out of the arms of his beloved wife, who was upwards of 60 years old, (and had lost her sight about a year before) and notwithstanding all her tears and entreaties, they instantly murdered him at his own hall door! then loading their cars with every thing valuable in the house, set it on fire, and left the poor old woman to grope her way out, thro' the midst of the fire and smoak! Not
satisfied

satisfied with this, they most inhumanly murdered four of her sons,—a fifth fell in the battle of Enniscorthy, the 28th of May. They also went to the house of one Croshea, in the parish of Rosdroit, set fire thereunto, and as he endeavoured to escape shot him. His three sons, who lay concealed in a bog, near the house two days, were at length discovered, and brought to a gravel pit not far distant; here the false-hearted rebels promised to spare their lives if they made a discovery of arms, the hope of which induced them to give the information they desired; but having obtained it, they obliged them to stand arm in arm, until they were fired at by word of command. The three brothers instantly fell, and were dragged like dogs to a pit, into which, (notwithstanding their being still alive) they were cast by these cruel and deceitful men, and covered with such a quantity of earth, as rendered it impossible for them to raise it. The poor afflicted mother came in the anguish of her soul to seek for her children, but the rebels with great coolness, shewed her where they lay, telling her she might make herself

herself easy as they were already buried for her. In short they hardly left a Protestant house in the parish of Rosdroit, that they did not burn, nor scarce a Protestant they could lay hands on, that they did not murder. In other parts of the county, some Protestants remained at home, and sought protection from their Popish neighbours, but *here* no asylum for a Protestant could be found, nay, they would scarce permit a prisoner to pass through, without having the pleasure of thrusting a pike at him, to which they were farther excited by the hope of an eternal reward. They said they would let the women and children live, as they might become true christians, having no heretics to protect them,

That the rebels were not only destitute of faith, but likewise of gratitude when the success of their religion required it, may appear from the following tragical relation: Mr. George Hornick, a wealthy inhabitant of the parish of Kill-Anne, some years ago gave privilege to have a Popish chapel built on his ground, and made it as convenient as possible to

to the congregation, by making passes thro' every part of his land to it. Yet, he was not shewn the smallest favour for his liberality; for having in the year 1774, withstood an attack made upon his house by a party of men, then known by the name of White-boys, which with the assistance of his only brother, he beat off, after killing three of them; as soon as the rebellion broke out, this was remembered, and his neighbours first design was upon him. Priest Roche, of Poul-pearisy, accordingly headed a body of these insurgents, and proceeded to the house of the Rev. John Richards of said parish, to demand *him* and all the Protestants who had taken refuge there. The house being well adapted for defence, they resolved not to surrender. Roche then told them if they would deliver Hornick to him, all the rest should be spared. They refused—upon which he rode off, threatening to bring cannon, and to level the house to the ground. In the interim Hornick and his companions with difficulty effected their escape to Ross. Hornick had, however, two sons living in Enniscorthy, one a clergyman, and the other

other an apprentice to an apothecary; these unfortunately fell into their bloody hands and were murdered. The circumstances attending the death of the latter, are so distressing, I cannot help relating them. On his being taken by the rebels, they prevailed on him to write to his father for his arms and to inform him that he was an hostage till they should be sent, but these ferocious monsters, knowing nothing of truth, gratitude or compassion, would not wait the father's answer, but led him forth to the slaughter. They shot him, piked him, stripped him naked, and threw him among the dead. Some life still remaining, he, under cover of the night stole off the hill, and made home to his father's *place*, in hopes of meeting his family, but alas! they were gone and the house burned: he then hoped to meet some humanity amongst his neighbours, but there was no such thing; for as soon as they perceived him wounded and naked, they brought him to a gravel pit in the aforesaid bloody parish of Rosdroit, and there murdered him in the most barbarous and savage manner. His

uncle

uncle, Philip Hornick, was one of those who suffered by their cruel hands in the barn at Scollabogue.

It is not a little extraordinary that some parishes were more bloody than others; for instance, the parishes of Killegny, Chappel, and Templeodican, had not a Protestant man killed in them, nor a house burned or plundered, nor one prosecuted for any criminal act during the rebellion. Whether to impute it to the mild dispositions of the priests of those parishes, (as they most certainly had a foreknowledge of the business,) or to the inhabitants themselves, we must leave the world to judge; for these parishes were joined by those of Rosdroit, Adam's-town, Kill-Anne, Clonmore, and New-bawn, where no Protestant was spared. That these atrocities were not winked at by the all-seeing eye of heaven, may appear from the following relation:

During the rebellion, a man, named Patrick Darcy, went into the house of James Sherlock, of Enniscorthy, dragged out his father William
U Sherlock,

Sherlock, a (man above 60 years old,) and murdered him in the street. After the rebellion, Darcy was apprehended for the murder, and committed to Wexford goal. On the night of the 9th of November following, his wife, who was permitted to sleep with him in his cell, saw in the middle of the night the appearance of an *old man* coming in; she was so much alarmed, that she awoke her husband; who when he beheld the apparition, gave a violent screech, and immediately took ill, from which time he laboured under a very burthened mind until he died, which happened in a few days after. This I had from the goaler, while Darcy was waking. In Enniscorthy, as well as in Gorey, they tore the inside of the church to pieces and left nothing standing but the walls; the bell they took up to the hill which served them to ring an alarm.

Edward Roche of Garrylough, took upon himself the rank of general, he was a notorious rebel, but had not the character of a murderer; he issued the following proclamation, which was printed and circulated thro' the country.

“ Dear

"Dear Fellow-Citizens,
"The world with astonishment beholds,
and future ages will record, the wonderful
and brilliant victories achieved by men almost
wholly unacquainted with military tactics,
and hardly able to find men to lead them on
to conquer. But what force is there can
withstand the arms of citizens fighting for
liberty!—You see that by our exertions, al-
most the whole county is in our possession;
yet, but a few more struggles, and the day is
our own. Your brethren in different parts of
the kingdom have only been waiting for the
signal, and you soon will see them flocking to
the standard of liberty by thousands. Una-
nimity is what I have chiefly to recommend
to you, with subordination and speedy obe-
dience to the commands of your officers, by
which means you will insure success, and soon
will see the downfall of that government
which has long been tottering under the
weight of its own crimes and enormities, and
under the torture and burthen of which you
have so long groaned; but, at the same time
let

"let me beg of you to be particular in your conduct towards your prisoners; remember, numbers whom you have in your possession may not be guilty through principle, but through necessity; remember that they may have been forced to appear against us, for the sake of getting their bread, when their hearts have been with us; remember that this is not a war for religion, but for liberty; that there are a great number of great men, who are Protestants, who wish well to the cause in which we are engaged. Let the speech of the Protestant bishop of Down, in the Irish house of Lords, when the famous Roman-catholic bill was sent in, never be forgotten, but sink deep in all your breasts."

EDWARD ROCHE,
General of the United Army of the
County of Wexford, fighting in
Vinegar-bill } *"The Cause of Liberty."*
Camp.

After the battles of Ross, Newtown-barry, and Arklow, the rebels lost all hopes; for had they gained Ross, all the county of Kilkenny, and that of Waterford would have joined them,

nor

nor could all the military force in these counties have stopped their progress, until they had them completely in subjection; and had they been victorious at Arklow, nothing could have prevented their march to Dublin, (there being no military force in Wicklow,) where multitudes of rebels were only waiting for the signal, and had they reached Dublin, the fate of that city must have been awful; notwithstanding the gallantry of the yeomen, who were ready for all alarms, and constantly on duty like the oldest veterans, until the noble militia of England, who volunteered in our country's cause, came to their relief.

While general priest Roche, who lay at Lacken-hill, near Ross, was making a vast sum of money by the sale of his *protections*, the committee and commanders in Wexford, received orders from the county of Kilkenny, for several thousand pikes, as another attack upon Ross was in agitation. The plan was this: a body of the Kilkenny rebels was to attack the town, from the Kilkenny side, while those of Wexford were to pour into it, and
put

put the whole garrison to the sword; accordingly every preparation was made for this grand attack, and further orders were dispatched to the Directory in Wexford, to fend in the Barony of Forth rebels, who had fled thro' cowardice from the camp, after the battle of Ross. The committee not being able to comply with their request, returned the following answer to general priest Roche:

only, members of the yeomanry of the county of Wick, 16th June 1798.

“Dear Citizen,

“We shall at all times be anxious to comply with your wishes; we have before us a message from citizen Hughes, expressing your wish to have all the men in Forth and Bargy in your camp; taking that demand in its full extent, we cannot comply with it, there are many reasons against it; for instance, the protection of the coast, provisions, &c. We have however, now issued orders, desiring all unmarried men to repair to camp immediately; we did so before, but they were not fully obeyed; at the present time particular obedience will be enforced, and we trust you will

“shortly

"shortly find at your camp a number of fresh young fellows, as well appointed and provided as our best efforts can accomplish; and we trust you will find in them the means of gratifying your wishes on the subject. We wish you every success in our glorious cause."

"Health and Fraternity."

"By order of the Council,

"NICHOLAS GRAY, Sec."

*"Council Chamber,
Wexford."*

"P. S. The appearance of the armed vessels off our coast, will enforce the necessity of keeping the married men at home, until a fresh occasion calls upon them."

The garrison of Ross having some intimation of the rebels intentions, surrounded the town with barriers, and put themselves in a much better state of defence than before. The Roscommon regiment of militia, and a brigade under the command of Brigadier general Moore arrived, which so much strengthened the garrison, that they bid defiance to any attack the United army could make.

On

On the 19th of June the garrison, consisting of about 7000 men, under the command of major general Johnson, marched for Lacken-hill, the Loyal and Glengary Cheshire fencibles arriving, and taking the town guard. The morning being hazy impeded their march so that they did not arrive at the hill till nine o'clock. The rebels perceiving the army approaching, fled towards Wexford, and encamped at the Three Rocks. The flank companies and Hompesch's hussars soon mounted the summit in pursuit of the flying horde, where they took a vast quantity of plate, lead, provisions, and some of their guns, which they could not conveniently carry off in their precipitate retreat. The army encamped that night at Old Ross, where they hanged several rebels which they had picked up in their march.

When news was brought to Wexford, that the rebel army had fled from Lacken-hill to the Three Rocks, they were thrown into terrible consternation; the rebels crowding thro' the streets, the shops and windows were ordered

ordered to be shut, but in about an hour all was quiet again. The next morning the rebels left the Three Rocks, and repaired to Long Graige, near Fookes's-mill, to attack general Moore's brigade, who had that evening encamped there, by order of major general Johnson. General Moore ordered a strong detachment under the command of lieutenant colonel Wilkinfon, to patrol towards Tintern and Clonmines, with a view to scour the country, and to communicate with the troops major general Johnson ordered to join him from Duncannon Fort. Lieutenant colonel Wilkinfon returning without any intelligence of them, and despairing of their arrival, general Moore began his march to Taghmon, about three o'clock in the evening. The rebels from the time they left their camp on the Three Rocks, were greatly reinforced, infomuch that their column extended 4 miles, filling the road all the way! They marched on, boasting of their strength, and expressing their desire to be up with the army. Scarce had general Moore marched half a mile, when he saw the rebels advancing towards him, and

X

knowing

knowing he should have a warm action, preparations were made to receive them, tho' his force scarcely bore comparison with regard to numbers. Having made the proper disposition, he sent his advanced guard, consisting of two rifle companies of the 60th regiment to skirmish with them; whilst a howitzer and a six-pounder, were drawn to a cross road above Goffe's-bridge, where some companies of light infantry formed on each side of them, under lieutenant colonel Wilkinson. The rebels attempted to attack these, but were repulsed by such a tremendous fire of musquetry and grape-shot, as made them fly in confusion over the bridge; while these were flying a large body moved towards the left wing, but major Aylmer, and afterwards major Daniel, with five companies of light infantry, and a six-pounder, were detached against them. The 60th regiment finding no more opposition in front, had of themselves, inclined to the left, to engage the body that was attempting to turn that wing; here the action was very bloody, the rebels confiding in their numbers, and being so well armed with pikes and musquets,

musquets, maintained an obstinate fight. The conflict was so sharp, that general Moore was himself doubtful, who would keep the field; for the flower of his brigade could not come into action, being obliged to guard the ammunition and baggage. A party of the rebels perceiving Hompesch's hussars bearing down on them, dressed in green, (which was their uniform,) some of them huzzad to the rest, thinking that their friends were coming to their assistance, but they were soon to their cost, convinced of their mistake. After a severe conflict of four hours and an half, the rebels dispersed and fled; the chief part to Vinegar-hill and Wexford, with intelligence of their defeat. The enemy's loss could not be fully ascertained, as the dead lay scattered over a considerable tract of land; and had the situation of the country admitted of a charge from the cavalry in their retreat, many hundreds more would have fallen: major Daniel was the only officer killed. General Moore took post on the field of battle that night, (it being too late for him to proceed to Taghmon,)

where he was reinforced by the 2d, and 29th regiments, under the command of Lord Dalhousie.

The garrison of Arklow, consisting of the Cavan battalion, Durham fencibles, detachments of the Armagh, Londonderry, Antrim, and Tyrone militia; Dumbarton and Suffolk fencibles, with detachments from the Ancient British fencible cavalry, 5th and 9th dragoon guards, and 20 each, from all the yeomen cavalry stationed in Arklow; in all about 3800 brave fellows, under the command of major general Needham, were on the 19th of June, put in motion, for the purpose of attacking the rebel camp on Gorey-hill; but they, hearing of the approach of the army, abandoned the hill, like their brethren at Lacken, and fled with precipitation to Carragrewa, where they encamped that night, and the next day, flew with greater haste to Enniscorthy and Vinegar-hill. The troops from Arklow, quartered that night in Gorey, where they found various articles of value, which the rebels in their hurry left behind them;

also

also a howitzer, and a ship-gun which were ordered to be spiked. They took some prisoners in Gorey, among whom was priest Francis Kavanagh, who was proved on the court-martial of a rebel the day before in Arklow, to be a most disaffected man, tho' one of the oldest and most respectable of his class in the county.

The next morning the troops marched for Oulard, taking with them priest Kavanagh, who was there discharged, thro' the interference of some neighbouring gentlemen. Such a gallant army, accompanied with so much cannon, ammunition-waggons, baggage, and bread cars, passing through the country, terrified the rebel inhabitants to such a degree, that they fled as fast as possible towards Vinegar-hill. The army encamped at Oulard that night, during which, they received orders from the commander-in-chief, lieutenant general Lake, to repair to Vinegar-hill, as it was his intention to attack it the next morning.

Vinegar-hill was now the only refuge of the rebels, and from the strength of its situation,

it

it was supposed by them to be impregnable. They certainly were of opinion, that all the troops in Great Britain and Ireland would not be able to dislodge them. However, on the evening of the 20th of June, they were roused on beholding his Majesty's forces advancing in two directions: A column from Ross under the command of majors general Johnson and Eustace, encamped on the right of the hill about one mile distance. The rebels seeing this, affected a kind of courage, and vauntingly cried, "They are not a breakfast for us, we will soon put them to flight." Accordingly they advanced with a field-piece, and a column of musqueteers, as tho' they would carry all before them. A skirmish took place, but no lives were lost, for the rebels were afraid to go too near, and general Johnson knew his duty too well, to remove from his station till the appointed time. Another column commanded by lieutenant general Dundas, encamped about two miles from the hill, on the left of the Slaney, supported on the right by another column, commanded by majors general Sir James Duff and Loftus. During the night,

night, the column under general Needham took station on another side of the hill, and all the field officers were employed in reconnoitring and forming a plan for attacking the enemy the next morning. Here for a while we shall leave them, and take a view of the melancholy scenes exhibited in the town and on the bridge of Wexford.

On the 19th of June, the Protestant women in Wexford received the heart-rending intelligence that all the prisoners were to be murdered the next day. That night also, one of them while sitting alone in silent sorrow, heard the death-bell toll as loud as ever she heard it, and much more awful.

The next morning, the never to be forgotten 20th of June ! Thomas Dixon rode to the goal door, and swore that not a prisoner should be alive against sun set ; then rode into the street, repeating the same with horrid imprecations, adding, " that not a soul should be left to tell the tale." Good God ! how shall I proceed ? neither tongue nor pen can describe the dismal aspect of that melancholy day—a day in
which

which the sun did not so much as glimmer through the frowning heavens. The town bell rung, and their drums beat to arms, to assemble the rebels for the purpose of joining those at the Three Rocks, in order to march against general Moore's brigade. In the evening Thomas Dixon assembled the murdering band, and immediately hoisted that harbinger of destruction, the *Black Flag*, which had on one side a bloody cross, and on the other, the initials—M. W. S. that is, "Murder without sin," signifying, that it was no sin to murder a Protestant. It was an awful sight to such prisoners as understood the dreadful signification of those letters. Having paraded some time to give more solemnity to the scene, the poor Protestants who were confined in the goal and prison-ship, were led forth to the slaughter—They were conducted under a strong guard of unrelenting furies to the bridge, piked to death, with every circumstance of cruelty, and then flung into the river to leave room for more! While this work was going on, a rebel captain being shocked at the cries of the victims, ran to the

Popish

Popish bishop, who was then drinking wine with the utmost composure after his dinner, and knowing that he could stop the massacre sooner than any other person, entreated of him "for the mercy of Jesus" to come and save the prisoners? He in a very unconcerned manner replied, "It was no affair of his," and requested the captain "would sit down" and take a glass with him," adding "that the people should be gratified!" The captain refused the bishop's invitation, and filled with abhorrence and distress of mind, walked silently away. All this time the merciless pike-men were butchering the poor Protestants on the bridge; some they would perforate in places not mortal, to prolong and increase their torture, others they would raise aloft on their pikes, and while the poor friendless victim writhed in the extreme of agony, and his blood streamed down the handles of their pikes, they exulted round him with savage joy. In the midst of this torturing work, general Edward Roche galloped up in great haste, and bid them beat to arms, declaring, "that Vinegar-hill was nearly surrounded by the King's

Y

" troops,

“troops, and that all should repair to camp,
 “as reinforcements were then wanting.”
 This express had a wonderful effect, they instantly closed the bloody scene, and fled in all directions, leaving three of the prisoners on their knees, namely, William Hamilton, William O'Connor, and Charles Jackson. Some of the rebel guard returned shortly after, and remanded back the prisoners, who had continued all the time on their knees, without making the least effort to escape, being stupified with terror. Shortly after that sanguinary monster, Thomas Dixon returned; his thirst for Protestant blood not being yet satiated, he ordered out the remainder of the prisoners from the goal and prison-ship, the greater part of whom were tortured to death in like manner as the former. He then proceeded to the market-house, and having fixed his vulture's eye on others, dragged them to the fatal bridge for execution. While they were enduring the pangs of death, who can convey to the mind or feelings of another, what the remainder felt on this occasion? After butchering them, they returned and brought out ten
 more,

more, which they also barbarously murdered. The third time they took out 18, and were massacring them, when Dick Monk rode into town from Vinegar-hill, with his shoes and stockings off, and shouting, "D—n your souls you vagabonds, why dont you go out and meet the enemy that are coming in, and not be murdering in cold blood?" Some Protestant women followed him, and asked him, "what news?" he replied, "bad news indeed, the King's forces are encamped round Vinegar-hill." He then rode towards the convent, and perceiving the women (who were anxious to be more fully informed in this matter) following him, he drew out a pistol and swore, "that if they came any farther, he would blow their brains out." They being intimidated by this menace, stood and watched until he arrived at the convent; shortly after priest Corrin was seen running towards the bridge. There were six of the poor Protestants killed out of the last party that were taken down before he arrived, namely, Philip Bacon, Samuel Gordon, William Stedman, Thomas Rigly, James

Dowzar, and Thomas Shaw; and it was with great difficulty he prevailed upon them to spare the rest; for after using all the arguments he could to no effect, he at length took off his hat, and desired them to kneel down and pray for the souls of the poor prisoners before they put them to death; they did so, and having got them in the attitude of devotion, he said, "Now pray to God to have
 "mercy on your soul, and teach you to shew
 "that kindness towards them, which you expect from HIM, in the hour of death, and in
 "the day of Judgment." This had the desired effect; he then led them off the bridge without opposition, when they were sent back to confinement. The massacre that day ceased about 8 o'clock in the evening. Out of 48 prisoners who had been confined in the market-house, only the following persons escaped:

Matthew Kelly,	Peter Judd,
William Kennedy,	William Shepherd,
James Hamilton,	William Harris,
Benjamin Warren,	John Makay,
Matthew Fenlon,	Francis M'Coy,
	William

William Kelly,	Sandwith Martin,
John Combes,	Robert Styles.
Joseph Hendrick,	Robert Makay,
Joseph Bavistor,	George Taylor, *
James Patchel,	

The very awful appearance of this evening, and the bloody scenes of the day, alarmed the remaining Protestants, and terrified them beyond description; for the rebels declared openly, that they would put every Protestant man, woman, and child to the sword the next morning.

We shall now return to Vinegar-hill. The different columns surrounding Vinegar-hill were impatient for battle. At half past five o'clock on the 21st of June, a gun was fired from the right, and answered from the centre and left columns, as a signal for a general attack; which began with a terrible discharge of artillery, and was incessantly kept up for an hour and three quarters. The position of the right column when the firing commenced, being on a rising ground at the West end of the town, and Vinegar-hill being on the east, they

* The Author of this History.

they played on the rebels with six-pounders, while the column covered by the fire of their own cannon, attacked them in the town, who tho' they had taken the most advantageous positions they could in the streets and houses, were obliged to yield, if not to numbers, to the superior bravery and skill of his Majesty's troops, and the slaughter among them was great. They then thought to fly to the hill for to take shelter, but before they could gain the top it was cleared by the centre column, which had formed their line on a rising ground on the North side of the hill, where the rebels had raised a breast-work. Here they were plied well from six-pounders and mortars. Seeing the shells, they were drove into the utmost confusion, nor could they think what to make of them; some shouting in a kind of delirium (as shell followed shell) "they spit fire at us,"—others, "we can stand any thing but these guns which fire twice." Indeed the carnage occasioned by them was very great, and fully answered the end. Perceiving the effects of the shells they fled from their strong hold, and took another position

fition on a lower hill, on the East side. The King's troops now mounted the summit, tore down the rebel standard, which was on the top of the old windmill, and displayed the Royal banners, which the rebels again bid defiance to, and planting themselves behind the ditches, which served them for entrenchments, and breast-works, they kept up a very heavy fire on the light brigade, commanded by colonel Campbell, but nothing could retard the progress of these brave troops, they rushed on them like furies—charging them in their entrenchments, and with the assistance of the left column which flanked them, soon put them to the route. Their own cannon were then turned on them, which threw them into the greatest confusion; the cavalry then pursued, and mowed them down like grass. Among the slain was priest Thomas Clinch, a most notorious and resolute rebel. They now made for Wexford; the pass leading to that town being left open, whether designedly or not, I cannot say. There fell however, of the rebels in the town, on the hill, and in the retreat, above 500. The number that surrounded

rounded the hill amounted to 15000 men, of which 3000 were cavalry—Lieutenant general Lake commander-in-chief. Throughout the whole of this arduous undertaking the troops who were filled with the true spirit of loyalty, displayed astonishing courage and perseverance. But alas! just after the battle, while the soldiers were yet filled with rage, a few poor loyalists that had encountered the greatest difficulties to escape the merciless hands of the rebels, and transported at the approach of the army, unthinkingly ran to them for protection, but being in coloured clothes were shot by their deliverers, before they had time to make known their distress; in this the soldiers were blameless, not being able for the moment to discriminate between the rebel and the loyalist.

RETURN

Of the killed, wounded and missing of the King's Troops, in the attack of Vinegar-hill and Enniscorthy, June 21st, 1798.

OFFICERS KILLED.

Lieut. Sandy's, Longford militia, attached to 1st battalion—Lieutenant Barnes, 13th foot, attached to 4th battalion.

WOUNDED.

WOUNDED.

Major Vesey §, Dublin county militia—Col. King, Sligo militia—Captain Dunne, 7th dragoon guards—Captain Shundea, 60th regiment of foot, 5th battalion—Lieutenant Barker, Kildare militia, attached to 4th battalion. Lieutenant Hill, Mid-Lothian fencible cavalry.

PRIVATES.

Ninth dragoon guards, 1 rank and file killed.

Mid-Lothian, 1 rank and file wounded.

Hompesch's hussars, 2 rank and file wounded.

Dunlavin yeomen cavalry, 1 rank and file wounded.

89th regiment of foot, 1 rank and file killed.

1st battalion light infantry, 1 serjeant wounded, 2 rank and file killed, 18 wounded, and 3 missing.

Royal British horse artillery, 1 rank and file wounded.

Sligo militia, 2 rank and file killed, 3 wounded.

Z

Suffolk

§ Now colonel Vesey.

Suffolk fencible infantry, 2 rank and file wounded.

5th battalion, 60th regiment, 1 serjeant missing, 5 rank and file killed, 5 wounded.

4th battalion, 1 serjeant killed, 3 rank and file killed, 22 wounded, 1 missing.

Royal Meath militia, 1 serjeant killed.

Roscommon militia, 1 rank and file wounded, 1 missing.

Dublin county militia, 2 rank and file killed, 6 wounded.

RETURN

Of Ordnance, as taken from the rebels on Vinegar-hill, June 21st, 1798.

Three brass 6 pounders—one 3 pounder—seven 1 pounders—one 5½ inch howitzer—two 4½ inch howitzers. Total 14.

ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION.

Seventeen 6 pounders—thirty 1 pounders—eleven 5½ inch howitzers. Total 58.

Note. A cart with a great variety of balls of different diameters, had been thrown down the hill after the action, and immense quantities of lead and leaden balls were delivered over to the Dumbarton fencible infantry.

When

When the rebels, (who were filled with rage and disappointment,) arrived at Wexford, they were for putting to death all the prisoners; others were for evacuating the town, while more were for fighting to the last. It was the intention of lieutenant general Lake, for general Moore to march from Taghmon, lieutenant general Dundas, general Sir James Duff and Loftus, to march through Enniscorthy, and general Needham to proceed through Oulard, and surround Wexford by land, whilst 8 frigates then riding outside the harbour, with some gun-boats, were to come into the river under the town, and with their united force lay it in ruins, if not evacuated. The rebels in town, knowing that general Moore and his brigade, must of course be advancing from Taghmon, and that the victorious army at Enniscorthy would follow him, saw themselves in a very critical situation, and being convinced they could not keep the town, liberated Lord Kingsborough and the other officers who were prisoners there, and sent them to propose about the surrender of it, hoping also, that the lenity which was

shewn to *them*, would induce the conquerors to grant them favourable terms. Accordingly, captain M^c Manus of the Antrim militia, (who was taken at the battle near Gorey, June 4th) and Edward Hay, a rebel captain, were dispatched towards Taghmon, to meet general Moore with the following terms, proposed by the rebels in the town of Wexford.

“That captain M^c Manus shall proceed from Wexford towards Oulart, accompanied by Mr. E. Hay, appointed by the inhabitants of all religious persuasions, to inform the officer commanding the King's troops, that they are ready to deliver up the town of Wexford without opposition, lay down their arms, and return to their allegiance, provided that their persons and properties are guaranteed by the commanding officer, and that they will use every influence in their power to induce the people of the country at large to return to their allegiance also. These terms we hope captain M^c Manus will be able to procure.”

“Signed, by order of the

“Inhabitants of Wexford,

“MATT. KEUGHE.”

When

When general Moore received these proposals, he dispatched them to lieutenant general Lake, who returned the following answer:

"Lieutenant general Lake cannot attend to any terms offered by rebels in arms against their Sovereign; while they continue so, he must use the force entrusted to him, with the utmost energy for their destruction.

"To the deluded multitude he promises pardon, on their delivering into his hands their leaders, surrendering their arms, and returning with sincerity to their allegiance.

(Signed,) AUG. LAKE."

"Enniscorthy, 22d
of June, 1798."

After this embassy was sent off, general priest Roche endeavoured to persuade the rebels, to go out and meet the army that were advancing towards the town, telling them, "it was better and more honourable for them to fight to the last, than to suffer themselves to be cut in pieces by the King's forces." All his entreaties were in vain, they absolutely refused to go on any account.

Popish

Popish bishop then ordered them all to kneel down, till he would give them his benediction; and in about half an hour the drums beat a retreat. General Edward Roche and his men, fled to Killinie, in the Barony of Forth, where they encamped, and passed the bridge, towards Kilmuckridge, next morning.

General Moore's brigade, arrived at the Windmill-hill, above Wexford, about 5 o'clock in the evening, and sent a detachment of two companies of the Queen's Royals, to take possession of the garrison. Captain Boyd of the Wexford cavalry, and a few of his troop were the first that appeared; they came (amidst innumerable blessings,) galloping up to the goal door to see the prisoners. Many a tear was shed on this happy occasion, by the overjoyed inhabitants; but captain Boyd cautioned the prisoners, not to come out till the arrival of the army, lest on their coming into town they might be taken for rebels, (not having military clothes) and put to death—shortly after the Queen's Royals arrived. Description fails in attempting to set forth the emotions

tions which arose in the breasts of the poor Protestants, who had been doomed to destruction. The entrance of the army was peculiarly striking; for instead of rushing in with all the violence of enraged men, as might be expected, they marched along in such solemnity and silent grandeur, that not a whisper was to be heard thro' all the ranks. Many wept with joy to see their deliverers, who soon opened the prison doors, and set the prisoners free. Thus was the town of Wexford recovered from Popery's persecuting reign, on the 21st of June, 1798, after being in the possession of the rebels 23 days. Had the army arrived a day sooner, they would have saved 97 Protestants, who were cruelly butchered on the bridge. Indeed the shocking acts of barbarity practised during this period, would make as many pictures of inhumanity, as are to be found in the history of martyrs.

Lieutenant general Lake now issued a proclamation for the apprehending of all the rebel leaders; assuring the deluded multitude, that such as would come forward and deliver
up

up their arms, should find mercy and protection; he also issued general orders that no person should be put to death, unless he had been tried and condemned by a court-martial, and he forbid any inhabitant, or other person being molested, strictly charging the soldiers not to take away an article from any person, without having first paid for it. The defeat of Vinegar-hill, and the evacuation of Wexford, so dispirited the rebels, that they flocked to the different commanders of garrisons, and on being sworn to allegiance, were favoured with protections; but few, very few arms were brought in, so that it is believed that they are still in their possession.

Perry and his men fled towards Kilmuckridge, and on the next day, Friday 22d of June, passed through Gorey, where they surprised some of the neighbouring yeomenry and loyalists, who that day had come from Arklow, for the purpose of seeing the situation of the country. The yeomen and such of the loyalists as had arms, gallantly withstood them, till perceiving the rebels endeavouring to surround

round them, they retreated to Arklow, leaving 37 of their little company behind who fell in the action. That day has since been known by the name of "Bloody Friday." The undernamed Protestants with 7 others were wantonly murdered by the rebels on that day.

Bates, William	Johnson, —
Bates, Robert	Jolly, Thomas
Bassit, John	Kennedy, Joseph
Butler, William	Lee, Richard
Butler, Richard	Moore, Daniel
Buttle, Thomas	Needham, John
Chease, William	Ormsby, William
Coke, John	Patchel, Michael
Dobbin, William	Rogers, Henry
Erritt, William	Read, George
Foxton, Thomas	Shaw, Abraham
Gray, William	Stanford, William
Harris, John	Whitaker, John
Jones, William	Webster, Robert
Johnson, John sen.	Williams, Ralph
Johnson, John jun.	

Before I proceed, I shall take the liberty of recording the extraordinary case of James

Rowfome, which affords another instance of the sanguinary spirit of Popery. On the retreat of the loyalists from Gorey, on the above melancholy day, James Rowfome was overtaken by general Perry and his men; they knowing who he was, were upon the point of piking him, but Perry desired them to forbear, and leave him for those who were coming after. Priest Kearns soon came up with another body of rebels, and asked him his name, he told him, on which he desired him to lie down, till he should shoot him. Some of the rebels were going to dispatch him in their own way, but Kearns prevented them, saying, he would do him the honour to dispatch him himself. He snapped his pistol at him, but it missing fire, the rebels were again for piking him, but the priest very deliberately put fresh powder into the pan, and ordered him not to stir, telling him he would now do his business. He accordingly fired, the ball passed thro' his chin and upper lip, and came out at his neck, tearing him in a shocking manner. Here they left him weltering in his gore. After some time he crept off the road, when he

was

was again overtaken by a strolling party of the rebels, who stoned him in a barbarous manner, and left him senseless. When he came a little to himself, and found they were all gone, he crept into the fields, where he remained without any nourishment for about three days; but on the arrival of the King's troops at Gorey, he was received into the military hospital, where he remained till cured, and is now a living monument of the sparing mercy of God. He is much disfigured, and his mouth and neck are continually discharging water, so that he is obliged constantly to keep a large sponge under his chin to receive it, which he must wring several times in the day to keep his bosom dry.

The rebel armies commanded by Perry and Roche, now formed a junction in the mountains, which divide the county of Wexford from that of Kilkenny, where for a while we will leave them to give some account of their leaders taken in Wexford.

A few days after the army entered that town, the famous gen. priest Roche, was arrested, tried by court-martial, and executed at the

bridge, from whence his body was thrown into the water. He was a man of great stature, and so very heavy, that on his being suspended the rope broke. John Hay, a rebel officer, was also taken, found guilty and executed.

B. B. Harvey, who acted as commander-in-chief to the rebels, was grandson to the Rev. William Harvey, of Bargy-castle, and Rector of Malrankin in the county of Wexford. His father, Francis Harvey, Esq. was an eminent attorney, and by his frugality, had enlarged his family estate by several purchases. His son was beloved by every description of people before the rebellion, and being a lawyer, was usually called counsellor Harvey. He was a man of almost the lowest stature, thin, long visaged, with very plain features, but his eyes were something expressive.

John Colclough of Ballyteigue, (a rebel officer) was a gentleman of respectability, and bore a very good private character. He was in stature of a full middle size, had rather a long visage, wore his own hair which was of a sandy colour, tied behind; he was about 30 years old,

old, of a chearful aspect and polite manners. After Vinegar-hill was reduced, Mr. Colclough, accompanied by Mr. Harvey, made their escape to the Saltee island, on the Wexford coast, and concealed themselves in a cave, taking with them a sufficiency of provisions to maintain them for some time. After a few days, information was received, that they were concealed on the island; on which a company of the Queen's Royals, was sent off in a King's cutter to apprehend them; and on the following day they were brought prisoners to Wexford. Mr. Harvey's trial commenced the same day, when he was found guilty, and executed the day following, his head was severed from his body, and placed on the top of the Session-house. Mr. Colclough was also executed, and his body thrown into the water.

Cornelius Grogan, was the eldest son of the late John Grogan of Johnstown, Esq. in the county of Wexford; a man of very fine landed property, and thought to be the greatest married gentleman in that county; of a retired disposition, and had never been known to take

an active part in political matters, but passed the chief part of his time in trying mechanical experiments. He sat as member for the town of Enniscorthy; and on the dissolution of Parliament in 1790, he offered himself a member for the county of Wexford, but lost it by a small majority. He had three younger brothers, two of whom were captains of yeomenry corps, and of approved loyalty; one of them (captain Thomas Knox,) was killed by the rebels in a charge at the battle of Arklow, and the other, captain John Grogan, of the Healthfield cavalry, was wounded in the neck in an action with the rebels. After the army arrived in Wexford, he was arrested at his seat in Johnstown, and on his trial, he endeavoured to prove he was forced to act as commissary to the rebel army; but was convicted, and executed; his head was cut off, placed on the court-house, and his body thrown into the water.

Matthew Keughe, (rebel governor of Wexford,) was formerly a drummer in his Majesty's 33d regiment of foot, and by his extraordinary

extraordinary merit, was advanced from that station, to the rank of captain in the same regiment. On being married in Wexford, he sold out of the army on half pay, and actually received it at the breaking out of the rebellion. He was about 50 years of age, rather above the middle size, and might be called a well looking man; his head was bald in the front, he wore his hair, which was remarkably white, tied behind. Some years back, he was appointed a magistrate of the county of Wexford, but his commission was afterwards taken from him for some political reasons. On the alarm being given, that the rebels were rising in the county, he volunteered in one of the yeomenry corps; and on Whitfunday, was employed in establishing fortifications to repulse the insurgents. On Whitfun-Monday, he was appointed to command a party of loyalists, which were to guard one of the entrances to the town; yet on the rebels taking possession of the town, he joined them, and was appointed governor; in which situation he continued, till the Royal troops obtained possession of it; when he was taken prisoner, convicted

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on the clearest evidence, and sentenced to be executed, which took place accordingly; his head was also cut off, placed on the Session house, and his body thrown into the river.

Esmond Kyan (rebel captain of artillery,) was the youngest son of the late Howard Kyan, of Mount-Howard, in the county of Wexford, Esq. and his mother was sister to the present Sir Thomas Esmond, Bart. of the county of Wexford. He was about 50 years of age, five feet and an half high, and rather a handsome man; of a very genteel appearance, but somewhat awkward on account of the loss of his left arm, which was cut off near the elbow some years ago, and a cork one substituted in its stead. He was liberal, generous, courageous and merciful, having received a severe wound in his left arm, above where the cork one was joined, and being tired of a rebellious life, he went for Wexford shortly after the army took possession of the town, in order to surrender himself, but was met by the picquet guard, and taken; he was tried, found guilty, and executed, after which his body was thrown into the water.

Edward

Edward Roche, (rebel general) was a middling country farmer and maltster, near Wexford; and until this time, never appeared in any conspicuous character, more than being permanent serjeant in the Shelmaliar yeomen cavalry, commanded by captain Le' Hunte: he was about five feet seven inches high, rather corpulent; about 40 years old, and had no more the appearance of a general than any other man, except that he wore two large gold epaulets, a silk sash and belt, in which he carried two large cavalry pistols, and he wore a sword by his side. Shortly after the rebellion subsided, having surrendered himself, he was tried and sentenced for transportation; and was accordingly sent to New-geneva with other convicts; but before the vessel was ready to convey them abroad, he, with some others, died suddenly: it was thought they had taken poison.

Richard Monaghan, alias Dick Monk, (rebel captain,) was a man born of obscure parents, had formerly been a shoe-black in Wexford, but being a fellow of wit and humour,

he was thought something of; and made out a livelihood by buying corn for the merchants, for which he was paid two pence per barrel. He had also been a recruiting serjeant part of his life; and on the rebellion breaking out, he was appointed a captain in the rebel army, and was considered during that period, as a very generous, well minded man. After the rebels were driven out of the county, he received a wound in an engagement, and was going to Newtown-barry to surrender himself to colonel Maxwell, of the Cavan militia, when he was met by some of the yeomenry of the town, and shot.

Thomas Dixon, (rebel captain,) was the son of a publican in Castle-bridge, near Wexford; in his youth he was bound an apprentice to a tanner in New-Ross; but not liking that business, he went to sea, and in some time was appointed master of one of his brother's vessels, who is an opulent merchant in Castle-bridge. During the rebellion, he was noted for cruelty and cowardice, and has been the means of shedding a great quantity of Protestant

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ant blood. His wife, if possible, was more sanguinary than himself, and wherever they have secreted themselves, they never could be found, tho' a large reward was offered for their apprehension.

Having given an exact account of the rebellion in the County of Wexford, and the principal leaders thereof, it now remains to inform the readers of their conduct, from the retaking of Wexford, by the King's troops, to their total separation. But previous to my entering upon this, I shall insert two more instances of their cruelty; the one attested upon oath, the other delivered by a person of the strictest integrity, who suffered by their barbarous hands. A few weeks after the battle of Vinegar-hill, an affidavit was made before Alderman Fleming, then lord mayor of the city of Dublin, by Richard Sterne, a man of about 70 years of age, and an old inhabitant of Enniscorthy, to the following purport:

"That he in his flight from Enniscorthy, was overtaken by a great body of rebels, on

" their way to Wexford, near the seat of Mr. Ogle; that the rebels were headed by priest John Murphy, on horseback, who carried before him a large crucifix; that he was accosted by one of their officers as an Orange-man, and asked would he turn Roman-catholic? that he replied he would not; for having lived all his life a Protestant, he could not think of turning in his old days; that upon his so declaring, he was threatened with instant death, but that life being sweet, he on recollection asked, if he would turn, should his life be spared? that he was answered not; but that in mercy he should be shot, but that if he did not turn, he should be tortured to death with pikes; that he then enquired, why they would kill him tho' he turned? they answered lest he should afterwards turn heretic; that hereon he begged hard, that application might be made to the priest in his behalf; that when the priest was asked, what should be done with him? he replied, what they liked; that he then told them if he must die, he preferred being piked for a Protestant, rather than to be shot after denying his faith; but that he requested
 " they

“ they would bring him before Father Murphy, which they did ; that because he did not instantly fall on his knees and bow to the crucifix, he was struck on the head with a spade handle, shod with iron, and left for dead ; that when he recovered he saw none of the rebels, and judges he lay on the road senseless some hours ; that he found he had been stabbed in various parts of the body with pikes, and was so sore that he could hardly rise ; that he received one stab which passed entirely through him, from the right to the left side, and thinks it was with a cane sword, or some such weapon, the orifice of the wound being small ; that he lay so long, his wounds stopped bleeding, the blood being congealed and was so faint he could hardly walk, the stroke he received in his head having disabled him much ; that with the little strength he had, he crept off the road, and went towards the Slaney, (about half a mile distant) expecting before he should be observed, to gain Mr. Ogle’s house, (the land-steward of which he had a long acquaintance with,) hoping thereby to get assistance in his deplorable condition ; that when he got

“ to

“to the river, and came to the Pill, (a place like a canal, to keep the boats in) there stood two women at the other side, who, when they saw him, ran and drew the boat to their side of the water, saying, “no matter what be-
 “comes of you, for you have not long to live,” (he being horrid to look on and almost covered with blood;) that he now went up the Pill, seeking a passage, but could find none, and returning to the boat looked wistfully at it, and regretted he had not in his youth learned to swim; that tho’ it was but about two yards from him, it might as well he thought, have been a mile; that he thought however, while there’s life there’s hope, therefore resolved to use his utmost strength, and endeavour to get to it, so ventured into the water and reached the boat, contrary to his expectations in a few efforts, and got safe to Mr. Ogle’s; that his friend the steward, behaved kind to him, having nourished him three or four days, and procured him a pass back to Enniscorthy; that the pass however, did not avail, as he was there put into prison, where he remained some days; that he was afterwards brought up to
 “ Vinegar

"Vinegar-hill, with many more Protestants, to end their wretched existence; that all his fellow prisoners were murdered, but that he was spared, by obtaining a protection from an old friend in power, brother to one of the priests." Thus this poor old man providentially escaped, to make the above affidavit of his sorrowful case.

The following distressing account was delivered by Edward Stacy of Mangan, of whose veracity there can be no doubt:

"That on Thursday the 2d of June, 1798, four rebels came to his house, on entering of which, they fired a shot, and asked why he did not repair to their camp? that he replied, he was an elderly man and inactive, and that he had a large family which required his attention at home; that they would admit of no excuse, but after setting the house on fire, dragged him away; and being joined by another rebel, they conducted him to a large marl-hole, which was full of water, and asked him could he swim? to which he replied in the negative; that they then said, we will
"give

give you your choice, either to leap into the marl-hole, or kneel down and be shot; that he replied, hard sentence, but that he was determined not to be accessory to his own death; that he hoped however, they would be so honourable as to take him to their camp, and try him according to their law, and that if there was any thing in his conduct worthy of death, he refused not to die; that instead of consenting to this proposal, they determined upon his death; that they led him a little farther, when one said to the other, Sinnott, are you a believer? Sinnot replied in the affirmative; that he then turned to Mr. Stacy, and asked, what do you believe in? that he answered, in the Lord God that made the Heavens and the Earth; that they then asked, do you believe that the Virgin Mary is blessed above all other women; that he answered, I do; that they asked what makes you believe so? that he replied, because it is left upon record, "Henceforth shall all generations call me blessed;" that they then damned him, and said, how do you know what is left upon record? adding, dont you know that tho' you are now
" alive,

“ alive, your soul is broiling in hell, and all of your sort ? that he replied, he did not believe that ; that they then enquired if he went to mass since the rebellion ? that he answered in the negative, as thinking it more prudent to keep away, lest they should say, he went thro’ fear, and that he was determined never to embrace their doctrine ; then said they you must die, to which he answered, I fear not what man can do unto me ; that they then ordered him to kneel down, declaring he should live no longer ; that he obeyed, and was scarce on his knees, when Edward Simot, who was then one of his neighbours, went behind, and discharged his piece at him ; that the ball entered about the small of his back, and came out at the lower part of his belly ; believing they had killed him, they went on their way to the camp ; that tho’ so badly wounded, he had presence of mind to lie still, concluding that if they returned, and perceived any signs of life, they would put him to death at once ; that he continued lying for about half an hour, bleeding all the while, when his wife, hearing he was killed, ran in

" the greatest anguish of mind to seek for his
 body; that she found him on his face, and
 supposing him to be dead, threw herself upon
 him, and immediately exclaimed, Oh! my
 dear Ned, are you alive? that he answered
 softly, yes; she, overjoyed, asked if he was
 much hurt? a little, said he; can you stand,
 my dear? said she, yes; said he; that she and
 another woman then raised him up, and help-
 ed him over two fields; but being weak with
 the loss of blood, his limbs failed, and he
 could go no farther; (tho' he thought he could
 have walked home, if he had got up imme-
 diately after he was shot;) that one of the
 women ran for a horse and car to convey him
 to the remains of his dwelling; that he was
 brought thither just with the signs of life, and
 put to bed, but with little hope of recovery;
 having no medical aid; that he lay in this
 condition all night, so that by morning, he
 had lost about six quarts of blood, in addition
 to what he lost when dying on the ground;
 that his wife however, with a dependence on
 the Lord, undertook to be his doctor; that
 she washed his wound with water in which
 ed "

" herbs

"herbs were boiled, then applied a plaster, and thus daily for six weeks she went on, until by the blessing of God a perfect cure was made."

But to return. Though the rebels formed a junction on the 22d of June, in the mountains between the counties of Wexford and Kilkenny, their intention was to separate; for which purpose, they formed their forces into two divisions; one commanded by general Roche, Edward Fitzgerald, and priest John Murphy, to march into the county of Kilkenny; and the other party to be commanded by Percy, Priest Kearns, Garret and William Byrne, to occupy the mountainous parts of the county of Wicklow. For this end the party under general Roche, &c. began their march early on the night of the 22d of June, and on the next morning made their appearance opposite Gore's-bridge, a village on the river Barrow, in the county of Kilkenny. The forces stationed there, consisted only of one troop of the 4th dragoon guards, and a company of the Wexford militia, which prepared to stop their progress; and for that purpose

pose took possession of the bridge; the army perceiving the rebels planting their cannon on the opposite side, and fording the river in considerable numbers, thought it more prudent to retreat; all the dragoons escaped; but 24 of the Wexford militia were taken prisoners; and eight of them being Protestants, were murdered on that and the following day. The intention of the rebels was now to form a junction with the Colliers, and after taking Castle-comber, to proceed to Kilkenny on Monday the 25th.

From Gore's-bridge they proceeded through Kellymount, (plundering as they went along) to a hill five miles from Castle-comber, in the range of mountains called the Ridge; where they encamped that night, determining to attack Castle-comber on the following morning. The Protestants of the country being terrified at the appearance of the rebels, and knowing that if they staid at home their lives would be in danger, hastened to Castle-comber. About one o'clock, a troop of the 4th dragoons, a company of the Royal Downshire militia; and a

few

few yeomen, arrived from Ballynakill; these, with a troop of the Royal Irish dragoons, two companies of the Waterford militia, and one troop of yeomen cavalry, about 250 in all, made up the entire of their military force.

The rebels after hearing mass from priest John Murphy, quit their encampment, and marched towards Castle-comber; the military marched out of town to meet the rebels, who advanced in the most daring manner, and in tolerable order, with their gun's-men in the front. The engagement began between six and seven o'clock, with a smart fire, which was briskly kept up on both sides for some time; but the army at length gave way, and retreated to the town; the military then took possession of the bridge, where there was a hot action for some time, when the commanding officer ordered a retreat. The cavalry, and some of the infantry instantly obeyed; but about 20 of the Waterford militia absolutely refused; declaring, "they would prefer death before dishonour." On the retreat of the army, the perfidious inhabitants set the town

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* See JONES's Narrative.

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on fire. The few military who disobeyed orders, and about 30 loyalists of the town, were all that now remained to engage the enemy, but at this juncture major general Sir Charles Asgill arrived, with a reinforcement of 900 men. The rebels perceiving such an army, sheltered themselves in the woods, and fired on the military; but 18 rounds of grape-shot soon dislodged them, when they were attacked on all sides; and about four in the afternoon retreated, leaving upwards of 400 dead. The loss on the side of the military, was very inconsiderable. For the safety of Kilkenny, the troops were obliged to return there that night; the loyalists who fled with them, could not be less than 600; they left the most of their property behind, which a party of the rebels who returned, carried off.

After the defeat at Castle-comber, the rebels kept hovering about the mountains, not wishing to remain long in one station, till they collected their forces, which were very much scattered after the action. Having them nearly collected, they again formed their camp

camp on the Ridge, where they remained till the evening of the 25th of June, when they left that situation, and advanced towards Kellymount and Gore's-bridge.

On the 24th, the troops in Maryborough, consisting of part of the Royal Downshire militia, with their battalion guns, commanded by major Matthews; Ballyfin yeomen cavalry, and the Maryborough cavalry, both corps under the command of captain Pole, were put in motion, and marched towards the Collieries of Castle-comber and Donane, by order of general Sir Charles Asgill. On the road they observed Castle-comber on fire, and advancing still to Moyad, saw the rebels in great force on the rising grounds above Donane; they received intelligence, that Sir Charles had that morning engaged them at Castle-comber, and that his force was at least double theirs, but that he had for certain reasons returned to Kilkenny. Major Matthews, thinking it rather late to attack them, fell back to Timahoe, where an express arrived from Sir Charles, desiring major Matthews, and the troops under

der his command to return to Maryborough. This was answered by an express from major Matthews, proposing to Sir Charles to attack the enemy the next morning, on the road from Donane, and that he would attack them, on the road from Timahoe. Sir Charles would not agree to it, as his troops were fatigued, but left it to major Matthews to attack them if he could with safety, or to return to Maryborough; he chose the former; and having made proper arrangements, pursued the rebels to Moyad the next morning, where he had last seen them; the rebels moved from this station to the Ridge, to which they were followed by major Matthews, who was again disappointed in bringing them to action, as they had marched to Gore's-bridge. The cavalry then went to Old Leighlin for intelligence, from which place captain Pole sent an express to Sir Charles, who lay in Kilkenny, informing him of what they had done, and their intention of attacking the enemy wherever they found them. Here they met with great kindness from Mr. Vigars, a gentleman of fortune, who supplied the troops with horses and cars

to

to carry them, as they were much fatigued, and accompanied them himself, giving them every assistance in his power. The whole arrived at Leighlin-bridge about 12 o'clock at night, and in two hours after, an express arrived from Sir Charles, desiring the troops to meet him at Gore's-bridge, at 5 o'clock the following morning. They instantly marched; but on the road, major Matthews received such intelligence, as induced him to alter his route, in order to get between the rebels and the mountains, at the same time sending an express of this manœuvre to Sir Charles, who had marched with detachments of the Wexford militia, colonel Lord Loftus; Wicklow militia, colonel Howard; and some regular and yeomen cavalry, under the command of major Donaldson of the 9th dragoons.

Major Matthews came in view of the rebels, advantageously posted on a rising ground, in an extensive flat, at Kilcomney, near Gore's-bridge, and discharging a field piece at them, they retired about a mile to form their line; the army pursued in column, and by the time

the rebels had formed, Sir Charles attacked them on the other side of the hill, and being joined by major Matthews, charged them in such a manner, as soon broke their line, when a terrible slaughter ensued. The troops being joined together, pursued them into the country of Wexford, leaving upwards of 1000 dead in the surrounding country.

When it is known that the rebel army would not have been brought to action, but for the exertions of this little corps, and when it is known that this corps pursued a large body of rebels at least 5000 strong, with 10 pieces of cannon for nearly 40 miles, without orders, or directions from any general officer whatsoever; and that except some bread they got at Leighlin-bridge, not a man of them tasted food for forty-four hours, it must be allowed that they did their duty, and that they deserve well of their country.

RETURN

Of the killed, wounded and missing, of the Troops engaged at Kilcomney, the 26th of June 1798.

OFFICER

OFFICER KILLED.

Lieutenant Stones, Mount-Leinster yeomen infantry.

PRIVATES.

5th dragoons, 1 horse missing.

9th dragoons, 1 serjeant wounded, 1 horse killed.

Hompesch's hussars, 1 rank and file wounded.

Maryborough cavalry, 1 rank and file wounded, 4 horses killed.

RETURN

Of Ordnance, Colours and Ammunition taken.

1 colours—5 four pounders—5 one pounders—4 swivels—a few guns, and a number of pikes, which were destroyed as soon as taken; a number of shot of different sizes, with a quantity of lead and moulds.

RETURN

Of Stores taken.

Black cattle, 170; Sheep, 100; Horses, 700. Total, 970. Also a vast quantity of bedding, blanketting, and wearing apparel.

Perry, priest Kearns, and the party under their command, remained on the county of Wicklow mountains, till the night of the 24th of June, when they resolved on attacking Hacket's-town, in the county of Carlow, near the mountains. The force in Hacket's-town at that time, consisted of 50 Antrim militia, lieutenant Gardiner; 30 Upper Talbot's-town cavalry, captain Hume; 26 Shillelagh cavalry, lieutenants Bradwell and Taylor; 46 Hacket's-town corps, captain Hardy, and 30 Coolattin infantry, captain Chamney; a small number to engage 4000 rebels, that knew not how to shew mercy to any person, who was so unfortunate as to fall into their hands. Lieut. Gardiner marched his men out of the town to receive the rebels, and if possible to prevent their coming in; but after a few rounds of musquetry, perceiving that their intention was to surround him, he drew his men into the town and barracks, being fully resolved to withstand them and defend the town to the last. The rebels pursued with loud huzzaing, and the town on fire. The engagement was obstinate and bloody, and the contest lasted without

without intermission in the midst of the flames, for nine hours, when the rebels began to retreat, and soon after fled in every direction. The cavalry then charged, and a dreadful carnage ensued: they were totally routed and cut to pieces. Thirty car loads of the killed and wounded were carried off in the retreat, many thrown into the houses while on fire, and numbers were found in the streets and ditches.

RETURN

*Of the killed and wounded of his Majesty's
Troops in the defence of Hacket's-town,*

June the 23th, 1798.

OFFICER KILLED.

Captain Hardy, Hacket's-town yeomen infantry.

PRIVATEs.

Upper Talbot's-town cavalry, 4 rank and file killed, 1 wounded.

Antrim detachment, 1 serjeant, 4 rank and file wounded.

Hacket's-town infantry, 4 rank and file killed, 6 wounded.

Coollattin

Coollattin infantry, 8 rank and file wounded.

Supplementary, 2 rank and file wounded.

After this the rebels suffered severely, being much weakened, and chased through different parts of the country by the army and yeomenry; however they still kept in bodies, almost dead with hunger, and the great fatigue of running from hill to hill.

On the 30th of June, information was brought to Gorey, that the rebels in some force were advancing towards Carnew; a small town on the borders of the counties of Wicklow and Wexford, but situated in the former. General Needham with a large body under his command, was encamped on Gorey-hill, and being apprised of this circumstance, ordered out a reconnoitring party of the Ancient British cavalry, and some of the yeomenry. After marching a few miles, they were joined by a party of the 5th dragoon guards, Antient Britons and yeomenry, under the command of lieutenant colonel Puleston of the Ancient Britons, which made them near 150 strong. As the patrolle advanced, they met a woman who informed

informed them, that the rebels were near Ballyellis, and that they had not much ammunition. The colonel turning to his men swore he would cut them in pieces; and making all speed, he descried them coming along the side of Kilcavan hill. When the rebels saw the cavalry advancing, in so rapid and incautious a manner, they instantly left the high way, and lay down under the cover of a hedge, till the army should come up; having to all appearance abandoned their horses, baggage cars, and wounded, which they had brought from the battle of Hacket's-town. The ditch the rebels lay behind, was a very high one, to the right; the left of the road was walled, and a deep dyke between the road and it. When the patrol came up, the rebels opened a most tremendous fire of musquetry on them; and being so securely sheltered, the cavalry could do no execution; being obliged to gallop stooping under cover of the hedge; and not being sufficiently cautious to avoid the cars, together with the weight and force of such a body of men, rode against some of them, and overthrew them; those in the

reere

were pressing forward, and being obliged also
 to stoop, could not look before them in time,
 nor suddenly stop, therefore tumbled one over
 another, horse over horse; whilst some of
 the horses feet got fastened in the shafts of
 the cars, so that the road was strewn with
 men and horses, plunging and tumbling about.
 The rebels taking advantage of this confusion,
 rushed on them, piked and shot 25 Antient
 Britons, 11 fifth dragoons, 6 Gorey cavalry,
 2 Ballaghkeene cavalry, and 2 loyalists, who
 went out with the patrol, besides wounding
 many. The remainder passed on through
 Carnew, and by taking another route, got
 safely to Gorey. During this transaction,
 the Wingfield dismounted cavalry and infan-
 try, under the command of captain Gowan,
 came up with the rebels, and having no parti-
 cular uniform, the rebels thought they were
 part of their own forces, but the yeomenry
 seeing their opportunity attacked them with
 great spirit, killed a number of them, and
 made their retreat likewise into Gorey, without
 the loss of a man. By the defeat of the pa-
 trole, the rebels acquired a strength of arms
 and

and ammunition; and knowing that Carnew was in a feeble state of defence, they resolved on attacking it; but after an uninterrupted contest of two days, they were repulsed by its gallant yeomenry, who killed a number of them, and drove the rest into the country. The town of Carnew was however destroyed.

After the defeat the rebels met with at Carnew, they fixed their encampment on a large mountain, which separates the county of Wexford from Wicklow, called the White-heaps. Here they remained till the morning of the 5th of July, when two great columns of the King's troops, under the command of majors general Sir James Duffe and Needham, arrived with an intention to surround the hill, and make a general attack. The rebels having received intelligence of their purpose, moved off the hill early in the morning, but were met by Sir James Duffe's column, and after a few cannon shot retreated. Sir James pursued the flying enemy, but general Needham's column was at too great a distance for his infantry to assist; however, his cavalry, (which were chiefly yeomen) joined in the pursuit,

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which

which continued for twelve miles, when they were stopped on some rising grounds; but the regiments under Sir James Duffe, coming up with their curricule guns, the rebels, after a short contest were again put to flight, with considerable loss, and dispersed all over the country. The loss of the army was 6 men killed, 16 wounded, and 6 horses killed. The chief part of the enemy flew to Carrigrua-hill; but had not been there quite an hour, when they were driven from that station, by the King's county militia, commanded by col. L' Estrange, which was at that time encamped at Ferns, about four miles from the hill. From Carrigrua, the chief part of the rebels retreated to a mountain, called Slieve-buoy, near Carnew, where they formed a sort of camp; but here they met with such hardship, that numbers of them died with absolute want and fatigue. Many of them deserted the standard of rebellion, and availing themselves of the merciful proclamation, issued by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, returned to their homes, to enjoy the blessings of that constitution they laboured to overturn.

Perry,

Perry, despairing of doing any more execution in the county of Wexford, as it was now so strong with military, directed his route to the county of Kildare, and there joined a strong body of rebels, under the command of Michael Aylmer, colonel of the Kildare rebel army, hoping that he could penetrate into the North of Ireland, where he expected to be assisted by a numerous body. But Aylmer prevailed on him to abandon his intention of marching to the North; thinking it more advisable to attack Clonard, (a town on the confines of the counties of Kildare and Meath, and built on the river Boyne,) as there was but a small force to defend it; then march by Kilbeggan to the Shannon, and surprise Athlone; where from its being the centre of the Kingdom, he expected great reinforcements. The plan was accordingly adopted; and their united forces being now about 4000, they proceeded on the 11th of July, to put their designs in execution.

The military at Clonard, were unapprised of the motions of the enemy, till about eleven

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o'clock;

o'clock; * when they received intelligence of their approach. Every preparation was now made; the men assembled, and were placed in the most advantageous positions under the command of lieutenant Tyrrell, of the Clonard yeomen cavalry. Six of the corps, including the lieutenant's son, (a lad only 15 years of age,) took possession of an old turret, at the extremity of the lieutenant's garden, which commanded the road the rebels were to come. Such was the rapidity with which they advanced, that the firing actually commenced from this quarter upon their cavalry, before the entire guard could be collected, and the gate leading into the court-yard was under such necessity closed, to the exclusion of several; so that when the lieutenant came to ascertain his strength, he found he had only 27 men, including his own three sons, the eldest of whom was only 17 years old! Such a critical situation, required all the coolness of a man innured to military dangers; and all the exertion, skill, and firmness of a veteran soldier. But although lieutenant Tyrrell had
never

* This excellent account was given in full in JONES's Narrative, and by his permission is embodied with this Work.

never served in the army, his own good sense supplied the want of experience, and his native courage furnished resources adequate to the magnitude of the occasion. He found his men as zealous as himself, determined to maintain their post, and to discharge their duty to their King and country; or fall in such a glorious cause. After sending a supply of ammunition to the advanced post at the turret, and stationing out-posts, he retired into his dwelling-house, with the main body; from which he selected the best mark's-men, and placing them at particular windows, gave directions that they should not fire without having their object covered; he had the rest of the men secured behind the walls, and incessantly employed, in loading musquets and carrabines for the mark's-men at the windows.

The firing, as has been observed, commenced from the turret. About 300 of the rebel cavalry, commanded by captain Farrell, formed their advanced guard, and approached the turret in a smart trot, without apprehending any danger. The first shot was fired by young Mr. Tyrrell, which mortally wounded
Farrell,

Farrell; the rest immediately discharged on the rebel cavalry, and threw them into such confusion, that they fled out of the reach of the firing. The rebel infantry coming up, passed the turret under cover of the wall; and numbers were posted behind a thick hedge, on the opposite side of the road, from which they kept up a smart fire against the turret, but to no effect.

The infantry which had passed the turret, being joined by another party which came by a cross road, (for it seems their plan was to surround the house, by advancing in different directions,) stationed a guard upon the bridge to prevent any reinforcement arriving in that direction. In a few minutes, ten or twelve of these guards were shot by the mark's-men from the windows; upon which the rest fled; not one of the rebels appeared afterwards on the bridge, so that the communication with the Western road, was in a great measure preserved; the importance of which, to the little garrison at Clonard, will appear in the event of the day.

The

The enemy being thus defeated in their first onset, in both points of attack, became exasperated to the most extravagant fury, and determined on the most savage revenge. A large party contrived to penetrate into the garden by the rere, and some of them immediately rushed into the turret. The yeomen stationed there, were upon the upper floor, they had the precaution to drag up the ladder by which they ascended; the rebels endeavoured to climb up on each other, so as to reach the upper story, but they were killed as fast as they appeared; others then ran pikes into the ceiling, and fired through it, but without effect; the conflict was obstinate and bloody, twenty-seven of the rebels lay dead on the ground floor; when at length they brought a quantity of straw, and set the turret on fire. Two of the yeomen endeavouring to force their way thro' the smoke, were immediately put to death; and the other four escaped, by leaping from a window 20 foot high into an hay-yard, from whence under cover of a wall which divided it from the garden, they escaped into the house.

Having

Having succeeded so well by the effect of conflagration, the enemy set fire to the toll-house, and some other cabins on the left near the bridge, for the purpose of embarrassing and confusing the garrison; during this operation, they were seen throwing their dead into the flames, for the purpose of evading discovery. The battle had now lasted near six hours; about five in the evening the approach of succour was descried from the house: the hopes of all were elevated, and they fought with renovated vigour.

One of the guards who had been excluded by the sudden shutting of the gates in the morning, finding he could be of no use, repaired to Kinnegad; represented the situation of his friends at Clonard, upon which lieutenant Houghton, with 14 of the Kinnegad infantry, and a serjeant, with 11 of the Northumberland fencibles, immediately marched for Clonard; this being all the force could be spared. The pass by the bridge having been kept open in the manner before related; lieutenant Tyrrell sallied from the house, and soon effected a junction

junction with this reinforcement. A few vollies completely cleared the roads, and having then placed the Northumberland fencibles and Kinnegad infantry, in such situations as most effectually to gall the enemy in their retreat from the garden, the lieutenant himself undertook the hazardous enterprise of dislodging them from thence.

At this time it is supposed there were 400 rebels in the garden; numbers of them were posted upon a mount planted with old fir trees, which afforded considerable protection, and many lay concealed behind a privet hedge, from whence they could see distinctly every person who entered the garden; tho' unperceived themselves. Lieutenant Tyrrell, at the head of a few picked men rushed into the garden, and was received by a general discharge from both parties of the enemy; no time was lost in attacking the party behind the hedge, who being defeated, retired to the mount; here the action again became warm, the enemy appeared determined to maintain the advantage of their situation; and the yeomen,

men, tho' fatigued with the heat and burthen of the day, could not think of retiring; six of them were badly wounded; still they persevered with the most undaunted courage, and supporting a steady and well directed fire against the mount, the enemy were at length dispersed, and in their flight, the Northumberland fencibles and Kinnegad infantry made great havoc among them.

The victory was now complete; as glorious an achievement as occurred during the whole rebellion; for which the gallant lieutenant Tyrrell and his men, can never be too much applauded. It was the first check the united army of Wexford and Kildare met with, and proved the fore-runner of those several defeats which terminated in their total dispersion. There were 150 of the rebels killed; and 60 wounded; which tho' accomplished by 27 men, will not appear extraordinary, when it is known that these men discharged upwards of 1300 rounds of ball-cartridge!

After proceeding some distance from Clonard, along the Dublin road, they turned to their

their right, and took up their quarters for the night, in the village of Carbery; where they possessed themselves of the Rt. Hon. Lord Harberton's house, and drank wine and spirits to excess. On the morning of the 12th of July, they moved to John's-town, and from thence to the Nineteen-mile house. They were pursued by 60 of the Limerick militia, and 20 of the Edenderry yeomen cavalry, under the command of lieutenant colonel Gough; who, after reconnoitring the enemy posted on a hill, attacked them, and gave them a signal defeat; they then fled in great confusion, leaving all their booty of cattle, stores, &c. behind them.

They were then pursued by major general Myers, with a detachment of the Royal Buckinghamshire militia, and some of the Dublin yeomenry, who drove them towards Slane, in the county of Meath. They then went off, under cover of the night, to the river Boyne, and passed it, but were afterwards pursued by two divisions, under major general Wemys, and brigadier general Meyrick. The rebels again formed in a strong position on the

road to Ardee; but as soon as the Sunderland regiment with their battalion guns arrived, they were thrown into such disorder that they broke and fled in all directions. The cavalry and yeomenry were ordered to charge them, which they did in a gallant manner, and having fled into a bog, they were defeated and cut to pieces; a quantity of guns, pikes, &c. with two stand of colours were taken.

Some of the rebels who escaped, fled towards Ardee, in the county of Louth, the rest retreated over the Boyne, towards Garret's-town, in the county of Meath; where they were again pursued and attacked by detachments of the Fermanagh and Carlow militia; Swords yeomen infantry, and about 100 cavalry; which consisted of part of the Dumfries light dragoons, and three corps of yeomenry, all under the command of captain Gordon of the Dumfries. The rebels being in general mounted, captain Gordon ordered part of his cavalry to pursue them; on their advancing, the enemy dismounted and instantly dispersed; not 100 remained on the ground
when

when the infantry came up, which were made to fly on the first discharge, and were then pursued by the cavalry. There were about 150 of the rebels killed, without any loss on the part of his Majesty's forces.

The rebels were now abandoned to despair, every man who survived, thought only of providing for his own safety; some fell victims to the fate they deserved; whilst others tired of a rebellious life, returned home, and by means of *protections*, were *metamorphosed* into *good and loyal subjects*, until their services should again be required.

Perry and priest Kearns made their escape into the King's county, and remained there but a few days, when they were taken by two of the Edenderry yeomenry; brought prisoners to the town of Edenderry, where they were tried by court-martial, and executed on the 21st of July following. Aylmer and Fitzgerald, with 13 other rebel leaders, gave themselves up, on condition of being transported, which accordingly took place. Garret and William Byrne of Ballymanus, also surrendered

ed themselves on the above condition; the former was transported, but as it was proved the latter was concerned in various murders during the rebellion, he was tried by court-martial in Wicklow, found guilty, and sentenced to be executed; which took place in Wicklow, on the 26th of September, 1799.

Many of the rebels dreading the justice of their fate, were afraid to return home; some of these joined a noted rebel named Holt, who was formerly a sub-constable in the county of Wicklow, and who infested the mountainous part of that county, as well as many parts of the county of Wexford. Several bodies of yeomenry and other military, marched frequently against them; and were generally successful, wherever they could come up with these desperadoes. Another party took shelter in the woods of Killagh-rim and Monart, in the county of Wexford; while they remained there, they committed several nightly robberies and murders. At length the army was drawn from Ross, Newtown-barry and Ferns, in order to surround

round these woods, which they did, and killed a number of the rebels; many of whom were found to be deserters from several regiments of militia.

Many very barbarous and outrageous murders, were committed on the persons of poor Protestants, who too soon returned to their dwellings, not thinking the rebels would again disturb them. So frequent were these murders, and no notice being taken of them, that the yeomenry proclaimed through the different parishes, "that the first Protestant that was put to death, they would scour the country and kill the Priest and 20 Papists, in whatever parish such a murder should be committed." This had the desired effect; there were no more put to death, tho' the robberies were as frequent as ever.

Holt, like some of his brethren, tired of a rebellious life, surrendered himself on condition of his being transported, which accordingly took place. Hacket, the next in command, stood out for some time, committing many robberies, but at length lost his life in attacking a gentleman's house near Arklow.

Such

Such was the activity of our soldiers, that in all probability the country would have been restored to perfect tranquility, had not the hopes of the disaffected been again revived by the landing of a few French troops at Killalla, in the county of Mayo, on the 22d of August, 1798. On their taking possession of the town, general Humbert distributed the following hand bills to the populace, declaring themselves the friends of the people, and their deliverers from oppression.

**“HEALTH AND FRATERNITY,
TO THE
PEOPLE OF IRELAND!**

“The *great nation* has sent me to you with a band of heroes, to deliver you from the hands of tyrants. Fly to our standards, and share with us the glory of subduing the world. We will teach you the art of war, and to despise the low pursuits of toil and industry; you shall live on the spoils of war, and the labours of others. The acquisition of wealth is the acquisition of misery, and the enjoyment of ease is inglorious. We have made all the
“nations

"nations we have conquered happy, by arresting their property, by applying it to the *common cause*, and consecrating it to the champions of liberty! Property is a common right, belonging to the valour that seizes it. We have already destroyed the unaspiring tranquility of Switzerland! and the wealth, and the power, and the bigotry of Italy are no more! If then, the justice of France has thus extended its reforming vengeance to unoffending nations, consider with how much more rigour it will visit you, if you shall slight its benignity. Fly to our standard, and we will free you from spiritual, as well as temporal subjection; we will free you from the fetters of religion, and the frauds of priestcraft. Religion is a bondage intolerable to free minds; we have banished it from our own country, and put down the grand imposter the Pope, whose wealth we have sacrificed on the altar of reason. Fly to our standard, and we will break your connection with England; we will save you from the mortification, of seeing yourselves under an invidious government, and exalt you into the rank of

"those countries which now enjoy the benefits of French fraternity. Let not the ties of kindred, the seductions of ease, or any other unmanly attachment to the comforts of life, teach you to neglect this friendly call of your countryman and fellow-citizen."

"KILMAINE, * LIEUT. GEN."

"LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY,

"UNION !

"IRISHMEN,

"You have not forgot Bantry-bay—you know what efforts France has made to assist you. Her affections for you, her desires for avenging your wrongs, and ensuring your independence can never be impaired.

"After several unsuccessful attempts, behold Frenchmen arrived amongst you.

"They come to support your courage, to share your dangers, to join their arms, and to mix their blood with yours in the sacred cause of *liberty*.

"Brave

* Lieutenant General Kilmaine, did not arrive with the French troops.

" Brave Irishmen, our cause is common ; like you we abhor the avaricious and blood-thirsty policy of an oppressive government ; like you, we hold as indefeasible the right of all nations to liberty ; like you, we are persuaded that the peace of the world shall ever be troubled, as long as the British ministry is suffered to make with impunity, a traffic of the industry, labour, and blood of the people.

" But exclusive of the same interests which unite us, we have powerful motives to love and defend you.

" Have we not been the pretext of the cruelty exercised against you by the cabinet of St. James's ? The heartfelt interest you have shewn in the grand events of our revolution— Has it not been imputed to you as a crime ? Are not tortures and death continually hanging over such of you, as are barely suspected of being our friends ? Let us unite then and march to glory.

" *We swear the most inviolable respect for your properties, your laws, and all your religious*

"opinions. Be free ; be masters in your own country. We look for no other conquest than that of your liberty—no other success than yours.

"The moment of breaking your chains is arrived ; our triumphant troops are now flying to the extremities of the earth, to tear up the roots of the wealth and tyranny of our enemies. That frightful colossus is mouldering away in every part. Can there be any Irishman base enough to separate himself at such a happy juncture from the grand interests of his country ? If such there be, brave friends, let him be chased from the country he betrays, and let his property become the reward of those generous men, who know how to fight and die.

"Irishmen, recollect the late defeats which your enemies have experienced from the French ; recollect the plains of Honscoote, Toulon, Quiberon, and Ostend ; recollect America, free from the moment she wished to be so.

"The contest between you and your oppressors cannot be long.

"Union ! liberty ! the Irish republic !—

"such

"such is our shout, let us march—our hearts are devoted to you; our glory is in your happiness."

"Health and Fraternity,

"HUMBERT, GEN."

Thus emboldened, and unconscious of the fate of the French, a number of the insurgents collected in various parts of the country, avowing their purpose of giving every possible assistance to them, and of impeding by every means in their power, the operations of the King's troops. Large bodies were collecting in the counties of Kildare, Westmeath, and Longford; and so very sanguinary were they, that they put on many of the churches in these counties, orders for the murdering of heretics. The following notice was posted on the church door of Killashee, in the county of Longford, a few days after the French troops landed at Killala.

"TAKE NOTICE,

"Heretical usurpers, that the brave slaves of this island, will no longer live in bondage; the die is cast, our deliverers are come, and

"the

" the royal brute who held the iron rod of despotic tyranny, is expiring—no longer shall one govern four. The *old holy religion* shall be re-established in this house, and the earth shall no longer be burthened with *bloody heretics*, who under the pretence of rebellion, (which they themselves have raised) mean to massacre us."

" The flow'r-de-luce, and harp we will display,

" While tyrant heretics shall moulder into clay."

REVENGE! REVENGE! REVENGE!

During the time the French remained in Ireland, the rebel inhabitants of that part of the county of Wexford, along the coast, between said town and Gorey, known by the name of the *Mackamores*; thinking themselves loyal subjects, from having taken the oath of allegiance, and obtained protections, sent the following letter to captain Fitzgerald, (then brigade major of the county of Wexford yeomenry, who had also raised some recruits in this part of the county,) requesting of him, to present the following address to major general

general Hunter, who commanded the garrison of Wexford, offering their services to march against the invading enemy.

"To bregaddeer magar Figgerald, in Waxford.

"Plaife your honor as you war good enof to get the general to give us pardon, and as you tould us, that if there was an occasion youd expect that weed fite for our King and cuntry, and as ever willin to be up to our word, we send this paper about the bisness, and if your honour ill give us leave to fite weel do every thing your honour bids us, and we minded nothing else to morrow but to fite for the kings officers against the French, and hopes your honour will excuse this haste an we wished to lose no time, and excuse our not nowing how to write to such generals, but if your honour will get a memoral drawn rite your honour may depend on us and put our names to it for us as in the inclosed."

"O' BRIEN,

"WALSH, and

"SULLIVAN."

To

*"To the general Hunter, or governor of Wexford;
 "belonging to King George the third"*

"We the Macamore boys was in the turn
 out against the Orrange-men, and to who
 your noble honour gave your most gracious
 pardon for we never deservd any other if we
 war-let alone, and being tould that the French
 was cumeing to take this cuntry from his
 Royal Highness the King, who we swore to
 fite for, and in regard to our oath and to your
 lordships goodness in keeping the Orrange-
 men from killing us all, weel fire til we die if
 your honour will give us leave, and weel go
 in the front of the battle, and we never ax to
 go in the back of the army, your honour will
 send wid us, and if we dont hate them weel
 never ax a bit to eat, and as you gave us pardon
 and spoke to the King about us, as the bre-
 gaddeer magar tould us and as we tould him
 weel never deceive your honour, tho the
 black mob says weel turn out a bit again, but
 weel shew them and the world if your honour
 will bid us, that weel fite and wont run away
 from the best of them, and if your honour will
 send down the magar that was wid us from
 " your

your lordship afore, or the honorable magar Curry, or the Lord Sir James Fowler general of the Middle lothin fogers in Waxford, and let them lave word at Peppers castle and weel march into Waxford, go where your honour bids us, do any thing atal to fite for your honors and weel expect to hear from your honor what weel do, or if your honor will order a signal to be made with a red flag, weel draw up and march as good as any fogers, and as far as one or two thousand good stout boys goes weel fite for your honour to the last man and weer sure all the Barneys ill do the same if you will give them leave."

"Signed by the desire of all the parishes
"in the Mackamores."

"O' BRIEN,

"WALSH and

"August 27th, 1798." "SULLIVAN."

Whether they were really loyal, or sought an opportunity of joining their friends, as they called the French, the readers may judge, but their proposal was not accepted of.

The loyal inhabitants of the county of Wexford, of every description, have suffered very much as to property, by the rebellion, much more than has been ascertained. Government has been so humane as to take into consideration the distressed situation of its suffering loyalists, and mean to compensate them for their losses. It appears from alphabetical lists published by order of government, that the claims sent in at different times prior to the 6th of April 1799, amount to £311, 341, 1, 7; and there are many who have put in no claim whatever, for no other reason, than not wishing to inconvenience so generous and humane a government. Exclusive of these, the society of Friends, (whose losses were very great,) made no application for compensation, as there was a fund raised by said society for that purpose. Many families who before the rebellion, were in comfortable situations, are now reduced to scanty means, and many others, of another description, who were in abject want at its breaking out, are now in affluent circumstances.

I shall

I shall conclude by laying before the readers, an exact copy of the confession of James Beaghan, who was executed on Vinegar-hill, on Saturday, the 24th of August 1799, taken before Christian Wilson, Esq; high sheriff of the county of Wexford, and John Henry Lyfter, Esq. one of the justices of the peace for said county.

"I JAMES BEAGHAN, acknowledge and confess, that I am guilty of the crime for which I am to suffer; but that I did not commit it from ill-will to the people that were murdered, but from the order of Luke Byrne; † I could not disobey him—no person dare refuse to obey the orders of the commanders. I am sure that any person in command could save the lives of the poor; every man that was a Protestant was called an Orange-man, and every one was to be killed, from the poorest man in the country. Before the rebellion, I never heard there was any hatred between Roman-catholics and Protestants, they always lived peaceably together. I always found the

H h 2

"Protestants

† A commander of the rebels.

"Protestants better masters and more indulgent
 landlords than my own religion; during the
 rebellion, I never saw any one interfere to
 prevent murder, but one Byrne, who saved a
 man. I think all that were present were as
 guilty as those that perpetrated the murders.
 It was thinking we were all equally guilty
 that prevented me from flying the country.
 The women were numerous, and were as bad
 as the men. The rebels treated the prisoners
 with great severity, very different from the
 way that I have been used in goal. They
 thought it no more a sin to kill a Protestant
 than a dog; had it not been that they were
 so soon quashed, they would have fought with
 each other for the property of the Protestants.
 They were beginning before the battle of
 Vinegar-hill. Ever since the rebellion, I never
 heard one of the rebels express the least sorrow
 for what was done; on the contrary, I have
 heard them say, they were sorry that whilst
 they had the power they did not kill more,
 and that there were not half enough killed.
 I know that the rebels were determined to rise
 if the French should come; and I believe they

" did

"did not give up half their arms. There are guns, bayonets, and pikes hid in the country.

"§ Now, gentlemen, remember what I tell you, if you and the Protestants are ever in the power of the Catholics again, as they are now in yours, they will not leave one of you alive; you will all go smack smooth—even them that campaigned with them, if things had gone well with them, would in the end have been killed. I have heard them say so many times."

"Taken before us, August 23d, 1799.

"CHRISTIAN WILSON, SHERIFF.

"J. H. LYSTER, JUSTICE P.

his

JAMES ✕ BEAGHAN,

mark.

(A Copy.)

§ From this mark Beaghan spoke without having been asked any questions, and spoke with an earnestness and in a manner that shewed his sincerity.

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From this mark Beachan took without having been
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AN ACCOUNT OF THE

Author's Captivity

AMONG THE

R E B E L S,

AND HIS MERCIFUL DELIVERANCE

OUT OF THEIR

H A N D S!

ON Tuesday the 5th of June, when the army was evacuating Arklow, my mother, brother, and sister, went with them, resolving to go to Dublin, (my mother and sister not being able to endure the hardships they were called to bear, not having undressed for I believe ten nights, being constantly kept in alarm, lest they should be murdered or burned in their beds.) I told my brother, that it was much impressed on my mind to return home, having

having an inward persuasion all would be well with me; to which he replied, "the Lord direct you;" so we parted, commending each other to God. On my return, (being 12 miles from home,) as I passed by Hinch church, between Coolgreny and Gorey, I entered it to view the deserted tabernacle of the Lord; and was much affected to think that both minister and people were obliged to fly from it. The desolation likewise, which I now saw holding its melancholy reign through the country as I passed along, and the destruction which seemed to be brooding over the land in general, had such a powerful effect upon me, that I could not refrain from weeping, and that abundantly. I entreated the Lord, not to desert his church and people for ever; but to turn their captivity as the streams of the South, and not give us over into the hands of cruel and deceitful men. While reading the Psalms for the day (5th of June) my soul was much comforted; and I found also the first book of Samuel, 2d chapter, very precious; particularly the 9th and 10th verses: "He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall

"shall be silent in darkness, for by strength shall no man prevail." "The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces: out of heaven shall he thunder upon them; the Lord shall judge the ends of the earth, and he shall give strength unto his King, and exalt the horn of his anointed."—I had much comfort also in reading the 54th of Isaiah; thus after leaving this place, my mind was more strengthened in the Lord. This was the day on which the battle of Ross was fought. I then proceeded as if for Gorey, when four or five persons whom I knew not, overtook me, and seemed as if they would bear me company thither. I not knowing what they would do with me, when we arrived there, was resolved to separate from them if possible. As we drew near Gorey, I saw colonel Ram's house at Clonattin burning, and the smoke of it went up like the smoke of a furnace. My feet being sore with walking, I sat down as if to examine them; intending that they should go on without me, which they did. Being alone, I arose, and turned to the left, to go home another way, not wishing to venture

into Gorey as it was full of rebels. Passing a little cabin, a man with a green ribbon round his hat, asked me in a menacing voice, "who I was, and where was I going." I told him without any reserve, and asked him what way I should go to avoid the rebels; he gave me the best advice he could, it was well meant, but I did not like to follow it. Another neighbour of his coming up, we asked his council: he desired me to stay at his house till night, when I might get his horse and go home with safety; as the United-men were all to be in camp after a certain hour, (I believe 9 o'clock) this I approved of, and could not but wonder at the good nature of two strange men, I never saw before; but when night came on, I was afraid to venture as there were people passing and re-passing all through it. The next morning I was heartily sorry I did not go to Dublin with my family; but now I dare not venture, for the rebels were rising in every part of the country; and I knew I would be in as great danger of being shot, between where I was and Arklow, as between it and home. Not knowing what might be the consequence

consequence if I staid in the house, I went out into an orchard in order to conceal myself during the day, being determined to go home that night, let the consequence be as it would. When I went into the orchard, I bowed before the Lord, and prayed fervently to him to bless me, to keep me and direct me for the best. While in the act of supplication, it was warmly impressed on my mind to go home in the open day, and not to be afraid of man; and that the greater danger God should bring me through, the greater glory would redound to his own name. Immediately I returned to the house, and told them my intention, and after praying with the family, I set out in the name of the Lord, with my mind sweetly staid upon him. I passed thro' many of the rebels, saw a great number of Protestants houses burning between me and home, and heard many shots firing round the country, which I supposed to be levelled at the poor inhabitants, who were escaping from the flames. I passed on however, without meeting any opposition, until I got within three miles of my mother's house; just then a man followed me, whom I

knew not, and called out, "where are you going young Taylor?" ordering me to stop. I obeyed, and thus fell into the hands of the rebels. This was on Wednesday the 6th of June. I was then taken to Gorey, and confined in the market-house; at night the guards that were placed over us, tied our arms behind, and confined us to certain limits that we should not pass. The same evening they brought in another prisoner, whom the merciless wretches shot next morning in the street; I saw him fall, and was shocked at the sight, not knowing how soon it would be my own case. Next day we had liberty to walk the room, our arms being untied.

The rebel camp was about half a mile from the town, on an eminence which commanded the entire country, and their numbers were encreasing every day. My Papist neighbours hearing I was in confinement, came to see me; wished me a speedy deliverance and told me how to procure it; namely, to be baptized by a priest, and embrace the holy Roman-catholic faith, (as they called it,) and join them

in

in arms to fight for the cause of liberty; many told me I would be shot if I did not turn Papist, and made use of great persuasion to prevail upon me; I told them I was obliged to them, and doubted not but it was good nature induced them to speak as they did, but I was baptized before, and had no reason to condemn the church of England; but if they could convince me of its errors, I would freely renounce it, and until then, they could not expect me to turn from it; to others, I said, it required a little consideration, that such a thing should not be done precipitately. I now found the very great necessity of applying to my most powerful friend,—the FRIEND OF SINNERS, for strength sufficient to stand in the evil day; it was now I began to think of the martyrs of old, I prayed for their faith, their love, and their zeal; I sought the Lord for all their fortitude, and all their strength under the cross and in the flames, that I might be enabled to seal the testimony of my Redeemer with my blood; and I bless his holy name, I had a divine resignation to his heavenly will, and for the most part of the time enjoyed peace and an assurance

assurance of his favour. While prisoner here, they brought in a yeoman of the Castletown cavalry, whom they had just taken, and without allowing him more than ten minutes to call on the Lord, shot him in the street. Mr. Perry the rebel commander of Gorey camp, would give him no longer time to prepare for eternity. "The mercies of the wicked are cruel."

A few days after my being taken to Gorey, they stript me of a suit of black, and gave me a soldier's old jacket, waistcoat and small-clothes; they also took from me my hat, neck-cloth and shoes; and thus having plundered me, they left me to meditate on what was likely to follow. Nor indeed was it I alone that was robbed, for all the prisoners were served the same way. Having thus stripped us, they led us forth to the camp to be shot. Providentially two days prior to this, B. B. Harvey, commander-in-chief of the rebel forces in the county of Wexford, issued a proclamation from Carrigburne camp, one of the articles of which was, "It is also resolved, that
" any

"any person or persons who shall take upon him or them, to kill or murder any person or persons, burn any house, or commit any plunder, without special written orders from the commander-in-chief, shall suffer death."

Just as we were ranged on our knees, and our executioners in their appointed places, with pikes and musquets to put us all to death, a man came into the camp with the above proclamation; which was immediately read, and proved the means, under God of saving our lives. Nevertheless we were near being sacrificed by those blood-thirsty men; being so enraged with disappointment, they would hardly let us return to our prison alive. Some they stabbed, at others they fired; one man received five wounds from a pike, and had three ribs broke; another was shot through the shoulder; and I being arrayed with the soldier's coat, was struck several times, and received a stab in the back, and after being thus abused we were ordered to the guard-house. Blessed be God, I can say, that thro'

the

the whole of this trying scene, my mind was given up to him, and at peace with all mankind.

I cannot ascertain the number of rebels that were in camp it was so great, for they covered many acres of ground. It was distressing to see no military force in the country sufficient to engage them; it also distressed me to see their colours flying, and to hear their drums, trumpets and fifes playing, not knowing where it would end.

At night when the prisoners were about to lie down, I asked the guards would they give me leave to pray with them, as people of every persuasion should pray if they expected to be saved, to which they complied; I then prayed with them and exhorted them to keep their hearts engaged with God. The guards, tho' Papists were affected and seemed much attached to me, nor would they admit me to sit among the prisoners any more, but made me go among themselves, and sent in a good character of me to their officers. God was indeed very kind to me here; for the next morn-

ing

ing they cut the hair off the prisoners heads, and put pitched caps on them all, they meddled not with me; yea, even a minister of the church of England, who was also a fellow-prisoner, they served the same way. On Saturday the 9th of June, the whole body of the rebels prepared to attack Arklow; and as they marched from the camp thro' the town, the guards thrust the prisoners half out of the windows, that the rebels might see their heads shorn and pitched; at which they shouted so loud, that it seemed to pierce the very skies.

During my confinement, many and great were the exercises of my mind on the present times; I was frequently afraid, God was going to let the wicked loose, to sweep professors of religion away, because they were not glorifying God; and these thoughts occurred the oftner, in consequence of the reports of the rebel captains, who still told us they were every where victorious; tho' we found afterwards, they met with great defeats; for while prisoners we could never learn the truth. But tho' these thoughts occurred, still I believed

the merciful God would not suffer his praying people to be cut off by such blaspheming, blood-thirsty creatures. In the midst of all, I was constantly engaged with God to support me, and enable me to adorn the gospel of our Lord Jesus; to bless our gracious sovereign, and all his forces both by land and sea—to establish his throne for ever, that his children, and his childrens children might sway the British sceptre till time should be no more, and be nursing fathers to the Protestant religion. I was then persuaded, and am still of the same opinion, that these Islands shall see such days as will make us weep with shame at all the mercies of the Lord; and that in a very few years there will be such an increase of holiness, such an in-gathering of souls, as was never heard of, no not from the beginning of time.

Our bed in this place was only a brufs of straw, and that bestowed with a very contracted hand; which, notwithstanding might have afforded some refreshment, only that it was swarming with vermin. Our food also was
very

very scanty, no man got as much in twenty-four hours, as would suffice for one meal; but this I say, they treated me with more attention than the rest of the prisoners.

On Wednesday the 13th, the officers came to the guard-room to try the prisoners, and any they got good characters of, were received amongst them; but such as were supposed to be averse to the Catholics, (as they called themselves,) or were thought to be Orangemen, were sent to Wexford, and confined in the goal. When my trial came on, I was in a short time acquitted, and placed among those that were to go to camp, and fight against the government. Oh! my soul, what a conflict hadst thou here! Me appointed to fight against that King, who always gave us liberty of conscience; against that King whom I, and the children of God so many times prayed for, and in whose prosperity my heart at that very moment exulted. In short, to fight against my own conscience. I could not do it, and therefore resolved to choose imprisonment or death itself, rather than be guilty of such a crime.

My heart was now much engaged with God for strength to stand in this evil day, for I saw my life was at stake. I then considered, *who* am I afraid of? is it of man who is as grass, and must die? The captain passing by, I asked him what would be the fate of those prisoners who were going to Wexford? his answer was, "it is not for you to ask questions," and swore dreadfully he would cut my head off; I then of my own accord, stepped among the prisoners that were ordered for Wexford, being determined to go to goal, let the consequence be what it would, sooner than fight against the Lord and his anointed. As soon as I stepped in among them, I felt the divine approbation of God; I can truly say, I then knew his will concerning me, and was exceedingly happy in my mind, though I may say with Paul, "I fought with beasts after the manner of men." But it was the Lord that upheld me, or I should have started from the Cross.

The captain that tried us, when he found that I had deserted his service, (as he called it) was very angry, and ordered me to be pinioned.

ed. The rest of my fellow sufferers being served in like manner and bound together, two two, we were marched in procession to Oulart, 11 miles distant. It was near 11 o'clock at night when we arrived at the Inn, and were turned into an out-house like a flock of sheep; where a little straw was spread on the floor for us to lie on. Tho' very weary, we could not enjoy much rest, our arms being pinioned all night. I reclined my head against the wall, and slept a little, for indeed both body and soul were weary. Nevertheless, the feeblest flame that burned on the altar of my heart, ascended as incense for the King and the children of God. It may not be amiss, perhaps, to describe my dress and situation. I had on a soldier's worn out coat, a vest and breeches by much too little, torn and ragged, a boot slipper on one foot, and a brogue slipper on the other; my feet of course were weary to the last degree. Being likewise bathed in sweat, without a neck-cloth and lying in an out-house with the night air coming in on us, rendered my situation dangerous as well as disagreeable. In the morning I was worse,

being

being almost congealed, the very blood in my veins was chilled, my strength exhausted, and my fortitude beginning to fail.

At sunrise we were ordered out to be tied together, and to proceed on to Wexford; it was distressing to me indeed, worn out with hunger and fatigue, and unable to run away, had I even the opportunity. Thus pinioned and coupled as before, we were ordered forward, having still 10 miles to go. There were 19 of us, besides two officers of the Antrim militia, who had been taken prisoners at the battle of Tubberneereen, on the 4th inst. these however, were permitted to travel on horseback. When we had got about 4 miles, we were ordered to halt at the house of Edward Fitzgerald (a rebel commander) to get something to eat. A little food was now very acceptable, not having taken any nourishment from breakfast time the preceding day. I was here favoured with a piece of barley bread, but the rest of the prisoners got stir-a-bout and the worst of small beer. Having a little refreshed ourselves, we set out, and arrived
in

in Wexford about 11 o'clock; all the windows were adorned with green; and the rebels triumphed over us, as though they had taken a great spoil.

On our entering the prison, the goaler took down our names, and then we were conducted into the back-yard. Here I washed my feet at the pump, which afforded me some relief; after which I lay down before the sun to take a little rest. I had not been long thus, when a gentleman who knew me, and was also a prisoner, brought me to his cell, and gave me part of his dinner, which I thought the sweetest I had ever tasted. Another in the evening, gave me share of his; thus the Lord dealt kindly with me.

The goal is a very strong building; and I believe it never had such a number of innocent inhabitants before. No person was confined here but Protestants! and their religion alone was their crime! There were men of very genteel circumstances shut up in this prison; the rebels at the same time doing what they pleased with their property. Here it was, I had

I had the hardest trial of all ; being forty-eight hours without eating any thing, save potatoes and water—my bed at night was the floor. The prison at length became so crowded, that the rebel committee, otherwise the “ committee of public safety,” thought it expedient that some of us should be sent to the market-house ; for as the weather was intensely warm, they were afraid it would breed an infection. Some may conclude from this, that they did not wish the death of the prisoners ; in answer to which, I shall declare what I heard one of their captains say, “ That it was their intention “ to keep us safe till they should see the event “ of the war ; for if victory declared in favour “ of the King’s forces, they might hope for “ pardon if our lives were spared, but on “ the other hand, if they should put us to death, “ they could expect no mercy for themselves.” Many of my fellow prisoners who were appointed for the market-house, were making application to the members of the committee, to be left in goal ; for the lower order of the people were so blood-thirsty, that they could hardly be kept by their leaders from bursting into

into the prison, and murdering all the prisoners, who indeed looked upon their fate as inevitable. It was truly shocking, to hear their tumultuous noise at the prison door, when striving to force their way in. Was not this a time to look for a hiding place in the Son of Man? The goal being much stronger than the market-house the prisoners would much rather have staid in it, than be removed, but in this they could not be indulged, for some must go. Any person wishing to stay should make application to William Kearney, who superintended the former place of confinement. I was appointed with 47 others, to go to the market-house, for I did not seek to stay, knowing it could not be worse with me; and as for my life, I saw it was in the Lord's hands, and that not a hair could fall without his permission. So we were brought to the market-house, and a guard placed over us. While here I had such agonizings of mind, for the future prosperity of Zion as I never felt before.

We were now allowed plenty of straw to lie on, and were better served with provisions

than in Gorey or in the goal. At night when my fellow prisoners were preparing for sleep, I asked them to kneel down that I might pray with them; the guards on hearing this were so enraged, that they swore they would send a brace of balls through me, if I attempted it again. This menace so intimidated the prisoners, that they could scarcely be prevailed upon to join in prayer for some time. Nevertheless, they had my silent breathings. In the morning one man said to me, "if your tongue had been between my teeth last night, I would have bit it off." I asked him why? he replied, "you are going the way to have us all murdered." No, said I, but I am going the way to have you all preserved, "For now is the time to cry to the strong for strength." We were now given to understand that all the people in Wexford, and its vicinity had turned Papists, and that if we did not follow their example, there was no probability of our escaping death. In the evening one of the guards coming to the door, ordered out the methodist preacher, (as he called me,) I instantly came out, (not indeed without apprehensions,)

henfions,) and enquired his business with me ;
 he then told me he wanted to know what sort
 of doctrine we preached—I spoke as plain to
 his understanding as I could, and explained re-
 pentance and remission of sins, and the impos-
 sibility of entering Heaven without it. We
 were now joined by many of the guard, who
 wished to know if I would turn Roman-catho-
 lic. I told them not, for I knew too well the
 liberty wherewith Christ had made me free,
 and was resolved to stand fast in it; and that
 if they were now going to take me to the
 mouth of the cannon for the truth, I would
 seal the testimony of my Redeemer with my
 blood, for thro' his grace, I would not deny
 him that never denyed me. I said much more,
 and I bless God for the strength he gave me
 at a time when they called me out to kill me,
 which would have been the case, had not the
 Lord inclined the heart of the man who
 ordered me out, to ask me several ques-
 tions of this kind before he would take me
 down stairs for the purpose of shooting me.
 Just as I was concluding, the officer of the
 guard came up. It appeared to me, he thought

his men were engaged in a friendly conversation with me, for he appeared very angry, and asked how dare they presume to converse with any of the prisoners; I was then ordered in, and thus by the mercy of God escaped death this time also. Great were the trials of faith I had of this nature—Oh! how good is the Lord!

On the 19th and 20th days of the month, I thought deliverance near, (notwithstanding I heard they were endeavouring to come and murder us in the night,) so I picked with a pin on the walls of my prison, on the door and window cascs "Salvation," and "Salvation," "oh! the joyful sound! 19th of June, 1798," and every time I cast my eye upon it, it afforded me real consolation.

On Wednesday evening, June the 20th, we saw a great croud of the rebels coming up to the market-house: we all thought there was danger near then indeed, every one made use of the last shift, namely prayer, even the very men that were afraid to let me pray with them, now felt the necessity of praying for themselves,

themselves, and no doubt were sorry enough that they had not prayed more all their lives. Fearing I should be taken for a military man, (as in that case death was certain,) I took the foldier's coat they gave me at Gorey, hid it under the straw, and putting on a furtout which a friend lent me while in goal, I knelt down to pray to God for assistance, being resolved, not to look behind me, nor stir for all their calling, till they should come to me and signify it was me they meant, and then to go without hesitating. While thus engaged with the Lord they came in, and took away for the slaughter 14 of my fellow prisoners. After they went out, we enquired of the guards what they were going to do with them; they told us "to try them,"—others said "to take them to camp." Then they came back and took 10 more; while they were butchering these, a woman came in crying, and told us that they had taken several prisoners out of the goal, piked them on the bridge and threw their bodies into the river; that they were now torturing those taken from among us, and that *we* were all to be murdered in like manner.

manner. Now indeed we saw what was before expected ; I endeavoured to impress on their minds the necessity of making good use of the little time they had. I then prayed earnestly with them, and all seemed resigned to the will of God. They soon came back again. I was filled with a kind of indignation which I cannot describe, (but not anger,) and told the guards that the blood of the innocent would cry to Heaven's eternal throne for vengeance, and that the Lord would surely scourge them with the rod of his wrath, and make them as a monument of vengeance, and a proverb to the generations yet unborn. They instantly withdrew. I believe conviction of their guilt smote them. The executioners then came in and took out 18 more ! I being one of the number, a young man laid his hand on my shoulder, and desired me to come along with them ; I obeyed, but before they took us out, I reasoned with them strongly on the inhumanity and wickedness of murdering harmless men in cool blood, merely because they were not of their persuasion. It was all to no purpose, we were led out, and marched to

to the bridge, two and two, guards before and behind, and on each side. They were teasing us on the way to bless ourselves—they would shout thro' the streets as we passed on, "why dont you say your prayers; bless yourselves before the Devil gets you—you will be in Hell's flames in a few minutes." One of them came to me, and asked me "can you bless yourself?" I replied not, but I can pray to God to bless me, and you can do no more. Some of the prisoners asked for the clergyman, as they wished to see him before they died; they guards told them they should get him. I not thinking they meant the priest, and recollecting that there was an English clergyman in goal, a Mr. Wilson, and wishing to receive the sacrament, told them I would wish to get the minister also. Hereon several of them shouted out, "oh! boys here is Taylor the preacher from Ballycanow wants a minister. Pike him, pike him, at any rate," was instantly the cry. They would hardly let me go to the bridge, they so thirsted for my blood. When we arrived there, we kneeled down to commend our souls to God; they

piked

piked 6 in the most horrid manner, and threw them over the bridge. One man in his torture jumped into the river, where they shot him. While these were torturing, I thought I would surely be one of the next, as there was only *one* between me and death, when the Lord appeared in our behalf, by sending Mr. Corrin, parish priest of Wexford, to rescue us. When he came to the place of execution, he exclaimed, "oh! what is it you are doing, desist from shedding innocent blood, there has been too much of that already: you have lost your cause, and for God's sake shed no more." On which these inhuman monsters exclaimed, "They are all bloody Orange-men, we will pike them, for this is the way they would serve us, if they had us in their power." Mr. Corrin then took off his hat, and entreated them to desist, but in vain. I thought he would not be able to prevail. When he saw their determination, he requested them to kneel down, and pray for the souls of the poor prisoners, before they would kill any more of them; they obeyed, and when he had got them in the attitude of devotion,

devotion, now said he, "Pray that the Lord
 "Jesus, may give you to feel that mercy for
 "them, which you expect from him, in the
 "hour of death, and in the day of Judgment."
 They at length consented to spare us a while
 longer. He then led us away, and as he was
 coming by me, I stood up and kissed his hand,
 saying, "Blessed are the merciful for they
 "shall obtain mercy." On our return we
 met that tyrannical rebel, Thomas Dixon, who
 anxiously desired to know why we were
 brought back? Mr. Corrin told him, he had
 begged us off for the present. Dixon was
 very much displeased with Mr. Corrin, and in-
 timated that he would yet have satisfaction of
 us every man.

In this critical juncture, as our church most
 beautifully describes, "The peace of God
 "which passeth all understanding," kept my
 heart and mind in the love and knowledge of
 God, and the blessing of God Almighty, the
 Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, was
 with me of a truth. I thought long be-

M m

fore

fore this I should hear the Harpers harping with their Harps, and see the face of him whom my soul loveth, without a veil between; but my warfare in this vale of tears is not yet over, therefore I need the prayers of the children of God, to keep me without spot or blemish against the appearing of the Son of Man.

When we were brought back, I wept from the fulness of my heart, and prayed for them notwithstanding their thirsting after my blood. The Lord was my deliverer; but the poor old man that could have bit my tongue off, was shot on the bridge, the memorable 20th of June. Out of the 48 of us that were in the market-house, only 18 were left; and as they did not think it worth while to keep a guard over so few, they brought us back to the goal; but took the greatest care to have the door and yard well secured. I passed a very restless night, till at the dawn of day, when to my surprise, I felt the floor and foundation of the prison shake; starting up to know what it could be, I heard the roaring of cannon. I
concluded

concluded there must be an engagement, and knowing that the rebels had many field-pieces, I was greatly afraid it was only a few soldiers who had come from Ross, or elsewhere to engage them; and that they would be driven back by the infinitely superior number of the enemy. The doors being locked and bolted; I could not get as I desired to one of the upper cells, where a few religious friends were confined, that we might wrestle with the Lord in prayer for the success of his Majesty's arms. But tho' I could not get among them, I prayed by myself, while those that were in the cell with me, were fast a sleep. I afterwards heard that my friends in the upper cell, on hearing the cannon, betook themselves to prayer also for a blessing on his Majesty's arms. Our lives were now in jeopardy every moment, for all the town was in the greatest confusion, and many of the most blood-thirsty, wanted to murder us (before the arrival of the army) for their various defeats; but tho' they raged, God sat above the water-floods, and confounded their devices.

I cannot describe the feelings of my soul, when news came in that the rebels had retreated, that the King's army were coming into town, and that the English colours were hoisted at the quay. I could not paint the transports of the people that were liberated. There were the most delightful scenes, and the most feeling I ever saw—young women coming into prison, embracing their fathers, brothers, friends, and all weeping together for joy. It could not but affect me—it appeared to be so solemn a time, so sacred, and so acceptable in the sight of the Lord.

About five in the evening, I believe the army came in, opened our prison doors, and set us free. Now we tasted the sweets of freedom, and we gave them a hearty cheer; then went to the house of Mr. William Gurley, where a few of the most serious in town, assembled and sung:

I

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath,
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers,
My days of praise shall ne'er be past,

While

While life and thought, and being last,
Or immortality endures.

2

Happy the man whose hopes rely,
On Israel's God, he made the sky,
And earth and seas with all their train:
His truth for ever stands secure,
He saves the oppress'd, he feeds the poor,
And none shall find his promise vain.

3

The Lord pours eye-sight on the blind,
The Lord supports the fainting mind,
And sends the labouring conscience peace:
He helps the stranger in distress,
The widow and the fatherless,
And grants the prisoner sweet release.

4

I'll praise him while he lends me breath,
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers:
My days of praise shall ne'er be past,
While life, or thought, or being last,
Or immortality endures.

We

We then kneeled down and returned thanks for our delivery, and afterwards we went out about the town. I and two more by Lord Kingsborough's directions, took up all the arms, guns, swords, pistols, bayonets and pikes, in the Southward of the town; whilst his Lordship sent others to the North, East and Westwards to bring in the rest; and the next morning, we got many pikes, the handles of which we broke and burned.

Thus by the blessing of God our delivery was wrought and obtained on the 21st of June 1798. On Sunday the 24th, I went to church, and once more offered my praises in the sanctuary of the most High; the morning prayer and the Psalms were very applicable to the time, the congregation wept much before the Lord our God, in gratitude for their return to his house, from which they had been exiled three weeks and three days.

Now, Oh! Lord God most holy, Oh! God most mighty, most gracious and merciful Father, let thy divine blessing rest on these nations—let thy word run and be glorified
amongst

amongst us, and make us a church and people whom thou wilt delight to bless. Bless all great men and make them good men; and all poor men, and make them holy. Make us all faithful subjects to our King, and he and us faithful unto thee, and bring good out of this evil for Jesus sake. AMEN.

Dublin,
18th of July 1798. } **GEORGE TAYLOR.**

FINIS.

E R R A T A.

- Page 16, line 20, for grave, read, earth.
- 40, line 14, for Cormic, read, Cornock.
- 49, lines 8 and 9, for Tinehaly, read, Wingfield.
- 67, lines 20 and 21, the rebels were drove out of that town, &c.
- 69, read, the rebels were in that town, and the body seemed destined for Gorey.
- 69, line 21, operate against Gorey. omit the period, place it Monday morning. next line.
- 87, line 8, for Major Vesey, County Dublin militia, read, Major Vandeleur, Clare militia.
- 95, In the names of persons burned in Scollabogue barn, for Rurk, read, Rooke, and add the name of Holland Finley.
- 106, line 21, for Carrigburne, read, Slieve Quilter.
- 122, line 17, for Atkinson, read, Atkins.
- 123, line 6, for Kilmuckbridge, read, Kilmuckridge.
- 125, line 7, for 48, read, 21.
- 135, In the 29th Article of the Popish faith, add Confirmation.
- 138, line 15, for 500, read, 350.
- 142, line 27, for Oulard, read, Oulardards.
- 144, line 15, for Hendrick, read, Kendrick.
- 158, line 4. omit the words, and Glengarry.
- 168, line 19, for, until he arrived at the convent, read, riding towards the convent.
- 171 for Joseph Hendrick, read, John Kendrick.
- 180, line 5, for Killine, read, Killinic.
- ib. lines 6 and 7, for where they encamped and passed the bridge towards Kilmuckridge next morning, read, where they encamped that night, early the next morning went to the borders of the County Kilkenny. Perry and his men fled over the bridge towards Kilmuckridge.
- ib. lines 2 and 3, for leaving 37 of their little company behind them who fell in the action, read, and were pursued; the following with six others were slaughtered by the way.

